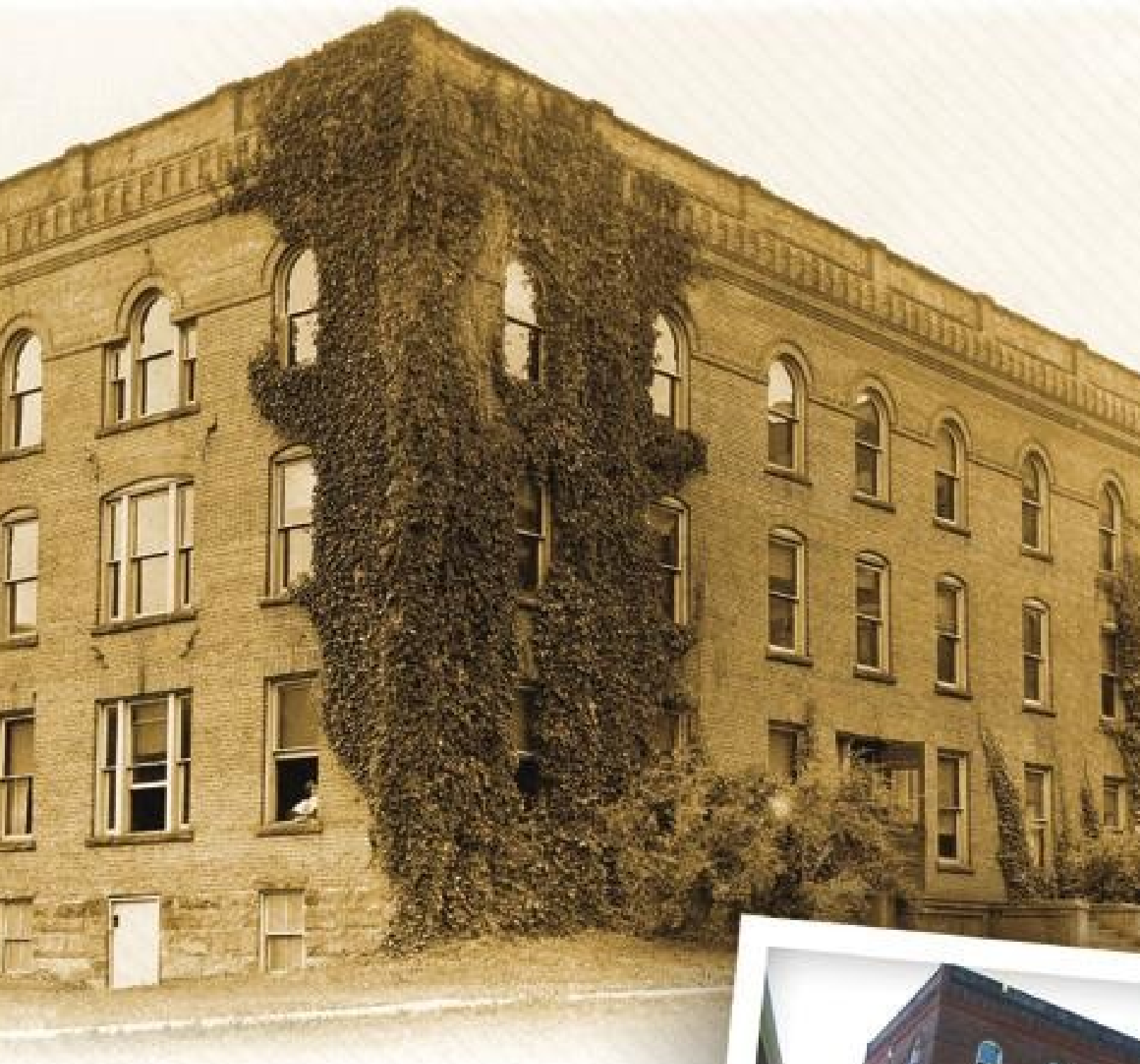


DreamersAndGiants Blogs 2018

Paula McGrew

2018 DreamersAndGiants
A Blog for the Ages

On New's Year's Day of 2018 the weekly blog DreamersAndGiants was launched to help us remember and to be inspired by those who boldly dreamed West Virginia Wesleyan College into being and those who went way out-of-the-box in order to keep us moving forward. In the college's journey over 150 years, some individuals attained the status of Giants for their innovative endeavors.

We are the Storytellers called by our ancestors

We revive their stories, put flesh on their bones and make them live again

We breathe life into all who have gone before

And, in doing so, we somehow find ourselves

Anonymous

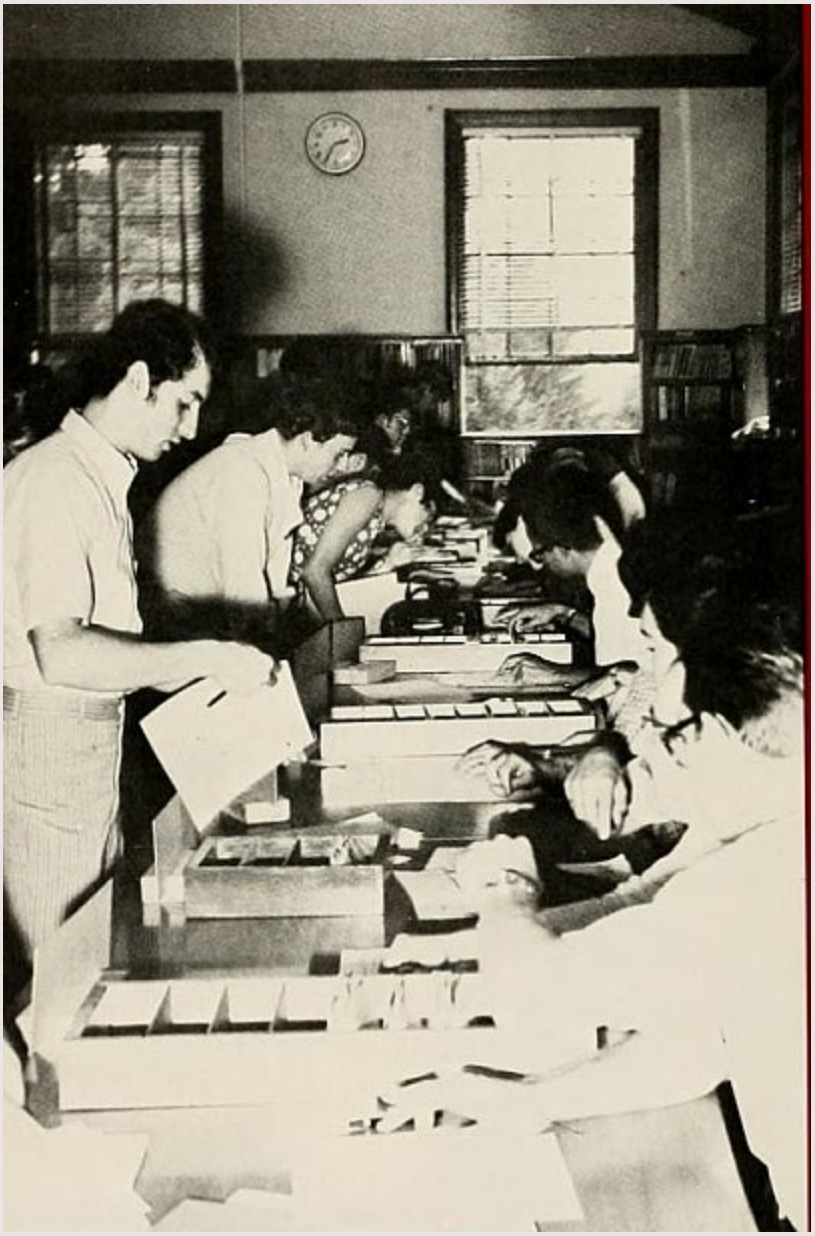
Here is my promise to you:
I will care about and collect their stories.
I will organize and preserve them.
I will share them through these blogs.

So, as a scribe called to storytelling, I present to you the stories of my WVWC family, in hope that these stories will restore your own memories of our Home Among the Hills, or you will learn about these folk for the first time.

DreamersAndGiants existed to acquaint us all with the history of West Virginia Wesleyan College. In addition to the blog, I have been curating the stories of Dreamers and Giants while teaching a course on Wesleyan History to nearly 100 students over several years.

Paula Lowther McGrew, Class of 1978
Associate Professor of Library Science, Emerita
Director of Library Services, Emerita

January 8 Registration Day



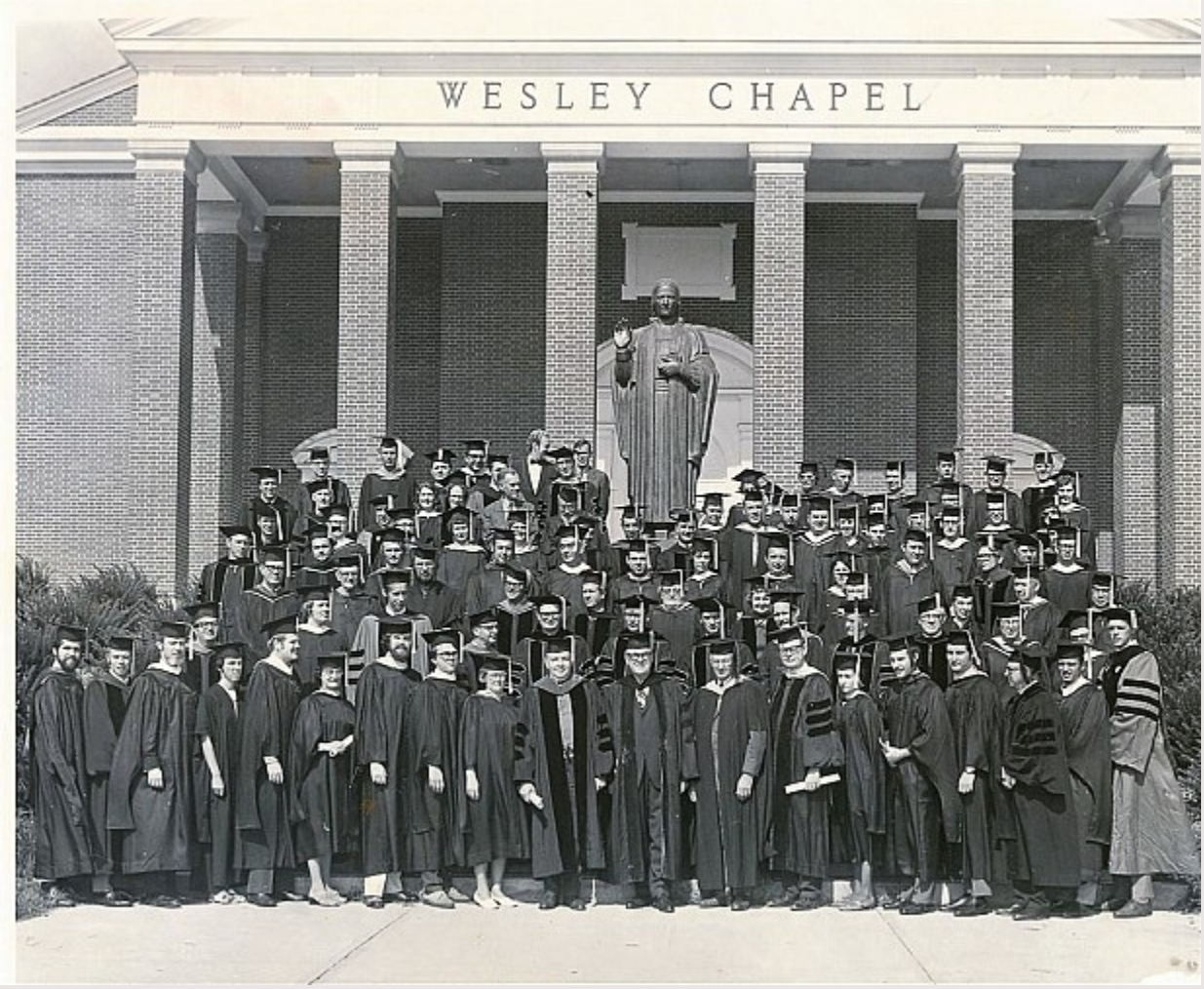
Registration 1970 Style

As students gather in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library on Monday, January 8, 2018, to register for Spring Semester, it seems fitting to take a look at what that process used to look like, not so long ago.

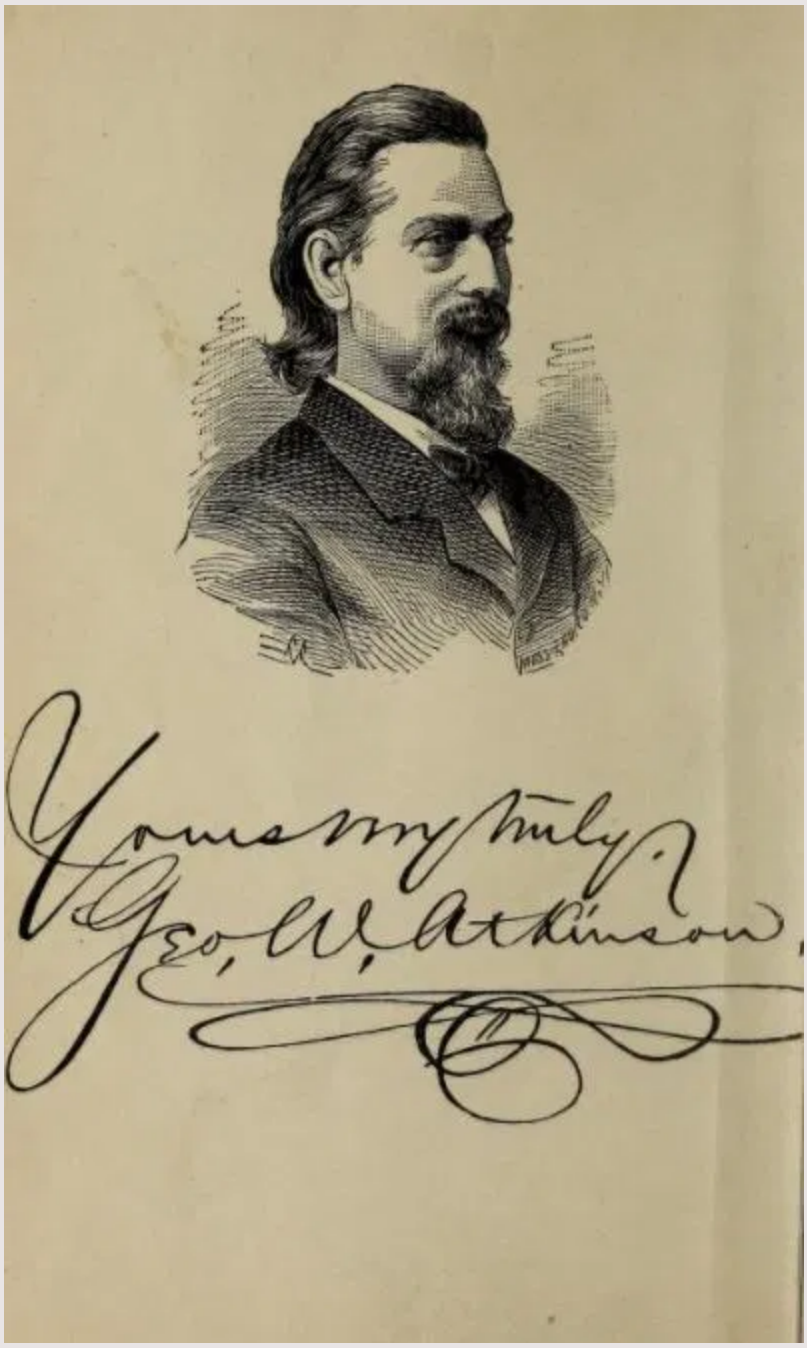
In 1970, there were punch cards instead of electronic databases and tools. There were only just so many cards per class, so you could tell immediately if the class was filling up. Many is the time that the person right in front of you in line got the very last card. At times, words were exchanged! Once everyone had been through the line, the punch cards were run through the main frame computer which was located in Christopher Hall.

January 16 A New Semester

Look closely, and you will see the faces of those who taught here long ago. The faculty of WVWC has long been committed to changing lives of students by demanding excellence and providing support. The faces may have changed, but the heart of academics is still going strong at WVWC.



January 23 George W. Atkinson



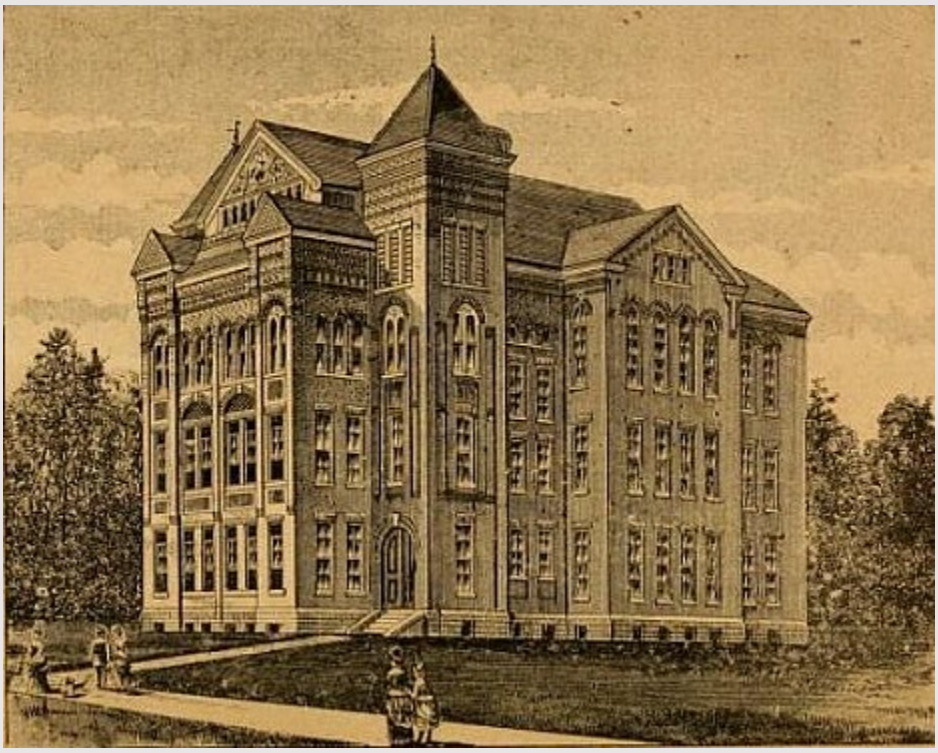
There is a mysterious building between the Administration Building and the Martin Religious Center. Those who walked the WVWC campus before 1967 were very well acquainted with the Atkinson Auditorium. It served as chapel and theater and lecture hall. In fact, it served as the theater until the present Virginia Thomas Law Performing Arts Center was built in 2009.

The Atkinson Auditorium was dedicated in honor of George W. Atkinson. He had a wonderful career, including the honor of being the 10th Governor of West Virginia. You can read about all of the wonderful things that he did in this profile. But he has also provided us with priceless information about the early history and leaders of our state through his books. These have been digitized and are available for us to learn from today.

Thank you, Governor Atkinson!

The lighter colored brick pillars were dedicated to George W. Atkinson by the Normal Class of 1913.

January 29 Calamity on February 4, 1905



In 1890, the West Virginia Conference Seminary opened in Buckhannon. The result of much planning and dreaming on the part of the West Virginia Methodist Conference, this was a state-of-the-art preparatory school and not (as we would see it from our 21st Century perspective) a place for pastors to be trained for ministry. There were few public schools at that time, and families wanted to be able to educate their children without sending them out of state to do so. All activities took place in this building – from classrooms to offices to assembly hall to library room. Students boarded with approved families in town until dormitories could be built a few years later.

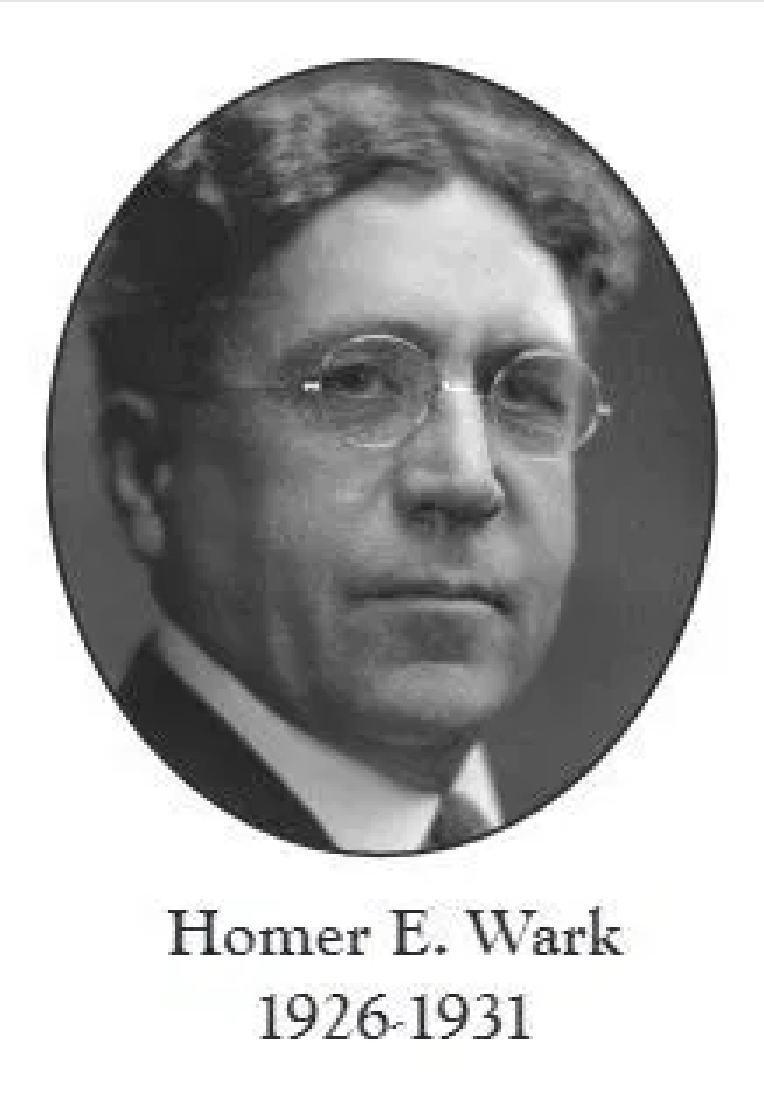
But on February 4, 1905 a fire destroyed this building. Everyone made it out safely, and much of the equipment and all of the records were saved. At that time, Roy McCuskey was a Seminary Student, and years later he recalled being in the building at the time of the fire. You can click here to read about his experience at that time.

The next issue of the Pharos included this drawing of the building after the fire. And, included an article entitled “Our Calamity” which was written by Frank B. Trotter. (Page 1 and Page 2.) He was the Vice President, but was in charge that day as President Wier was attending a meeting in Charleston. It gives details about the cause, the people inside, and his appreciation for the calm cooperation and composure of the students.

THE BUILDING AS IT NOW LOOKS.

We are thankful that these people took photographs, made drawings, and wrote about this experience so that we can know more about the history of West Virginia Wesleyan College. It may have seemed that a Dream went up in smoke that day, but from the ashes the Giants that worked and studied here built the new Lynch-Raine Administration Building and kept right on teaching and learning. This event happened on a Saturday (yes, they had Saturday classes!) and by Monday they were meeting as usual in churches and houses throughout Buckhannon.

February 5 Leadership



On February 25, 1931, WVWC President Homer Wark was invited to speak to the Weekly Convocation at West Virginia University on the topic of “The Problem of Leadership." Here is a summary of that speech, and a link to the Pharos article about the event.

Today we talk a lot about leadership styles, and how they come to be formed. We talk about Liberal Arts education (the kind of education that teaches you to think and learn — not a political ideology). Sometimes it is referred to as a Classical Education. From the very first year of existence, the West Virginia Conference Seminary was strong in this. And has been growing stronger ever since as defined by the Association of American Colleges & Universities. We now blend Liberal Arts Education with our professional programs to help students to be true leaders in their fields. The best of both!

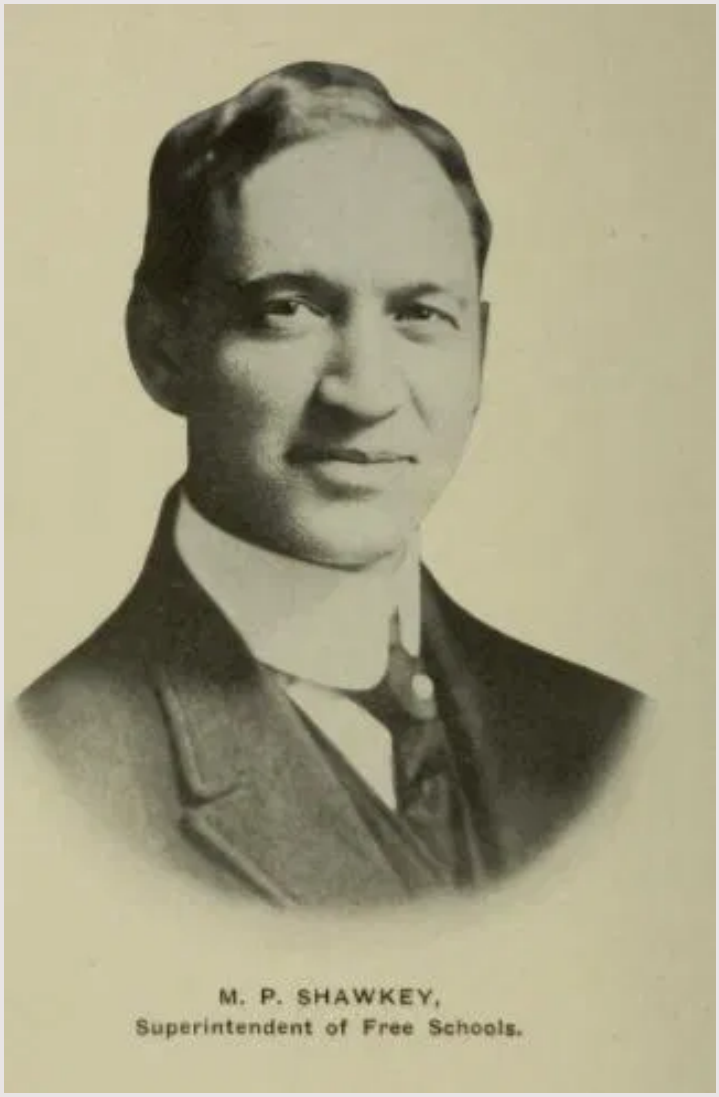
COURSES OF STUDY.

		CLASSICAL.	SCIENTIFIC.
FIRST YEAR	FALL.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, U. S. History.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, U. S. History.
	WINTER.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, U. S. History.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, U. S. History.
	SPRING.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, (3) Physical Geography, Physiology.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, (3) Physical Geography, Physiology.
SECOND YEAR	FALL.	Algebra, Elementary, (4) Civil Government, Latin, Rhetoric. (3)	Algebra, Elementary, Civil Government, Latin, Rhetoric. (3)
	WINTER.	Algebra Elementary, English Readings, (3) Latin, Rhetoric, (3)	Algebra, Elementary, English Readings, (3) Latin, Rhetoric. (3)
	SPRING.	Algebra, Higher, Natural Philosophy, Latin, Rhetoric. (3)	Algebra, Higher, Natural Philosophy, Latin, Rhetoric. (3)
THIRD YEAR	FALL.	Algebra, Higher, General History, (4) Latin, Cæsar, Greek.	Algebra, Higher, General History, (4) Latin, Geology.
	WINTER.	Antiquities, General History, Latin, Cæsar, Greek.	Antiquities, General History, Latin, Cæsar, Chemistry.
	SPRING.	Geometry, English Bible, Latin, Cicero, Greek.	Geometry, English Bible, Latin, Cicero, Botany.
FOURTH YEAR	FALL.	Geometry, English Literature, (3) Latin, Cicero, Greek, Analysis.	Geometry, English Literature, (3) Latin, Cicero, Astronomy.
	WINTER.	Bible Studies, English Literature, Latin, Virgil, Greek, Analysis.	Bible Studies, English Literature, (3) Latin, Virgil, Ethics.
	SPRING.	Evidences, English Literature, (3) Latin, Virgil, Greek, New Testament.	Evidences, English Literature, (3) Latin, Virgil, Psychology.

COURSES OF STUDY.

		LITERARY.	NORMAL.
FIRST YEAR	FALL.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, U. S. History.	Arithmetic Higher, English Grammar, [R. and K.] Book-keeping, U. S. History.
	WINTER.	Higher Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, U. S. History.	Study History, United States. Read English History.
	SPRING.	High r Arithmetic, Gi ammar, (3) Physical Geography, Physiology.	Arithmetic, Higher, Higher English [R. and K.] Physical Geography, [4] Physiology.
SECOND YEAR	FALL.	Algebra, Elementary, (4) Civil Government, Latin, Rhetoric. (3)	Elementary Algebra, [3] Civil Government, Rhetoric, Vocal Music, [2] [Easy School Management. [4]
	WINTER.	Algebra Elementary, English Readings, (3) Latin, Rhetoric, (3)	Study Rhetoric. Read "Our English" [Hill.]
	SPRING.	Algebra, Higher, Natural Philosophy, Latin, Rhetoric, (3)	Algebra, Higher, Natural Philosophy, Rhetoric, [3] Methods of Teaching.
THIRD YEAR	FALL.	Algebra, Higher, General History, (4) German or French, Geology.	Algebra, Higher, [3] General History, [4] Geology. History Education. [3]
	WINTER.	Antiquities, General History, German or French, Chemistry.	Study General History. Read Political Economy
	SPRING.	Geometry, English Bible, German or French, Botany.	Geometry, [3] Latin, Botany, Pedagogy.
FOURTH YEAR	FALL.	Geometry, English Literature, (3) German or French, Astronomy.	Geometry, Latin, English Literature, 2 or 3. Astronomy.
	WINTER.	Bible Studies, English Literature, (3 German or French, Ethics.	Study English Literature. Read Christian Ethics[illegible]
	SPRING.	Evidences, English Literature, [3] German or French Psychology.	Christian Evidences or Trigonometry. Latin. Psychology English Literature.

February 12 Thank You, Morris Shawkey



West Virginia Blue Book, 1919

Education is in the news everywhere in West Virginia right now. In our society today, too often public education is taken for granted. We sometimes even see this as our right. Some complain when they “have to” go to school or read something about the world. Very rarely do we truly understand what a treasure and a privilege it is to have these opportunities.

Let's begin by asking ourselves the hard questions

Is Education a Right?
Is Education a Privilege?
Or is Education a cherished Treasure?

The legend Morris Purdy Shawkey taught at Wesleyan (named West Virginia Conference Seminary at the time) from 1895-97. He died 77 years ago this week, and was featured in a story on West Virginia Public Broadcasting. Shawkey is widely recognized as the father of secondary education in West Virginia. He served three terms as the West Virginia State Superintendent of Free Schools, and during that time vastly increased the number of high schools (from 6 to 116) and was a huge supporter of having libraries in every school. You can read more about him here. Go ahead — it is a really fascinating story! It includes his time spent as President of Marshall and President of Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston) among other things. It includes political intrigue and other fascinating elements that would make for a great feature film.

Shawkey also wrote several books on West Virginia History, Geography, and Industry, which includes the best description I have ever read about the development of schools in West Virginia. And why they mattered to communities and individuals alike. Read this description here!!! Please!!! I wish each and every person in the legislature would read it.

We must value our schools.
We must value our teachers.
We must value those who work with our children.
We must value those who provide the opportunities
for our children to grow and shape our future as a society.

February 19 Faces of Wesleyan

They All Have a Story

Who are these people? Each of them has been a major figure in the history of West Virginia Wesleyan College. There are thousands more. They put in long hours and made a difference in the lives of students. They made decisions that shaped the future of the school (which we now call the present).

How many times have I wished that I could tell them, “Your college is thriving. It is making a difference in the lives of students so that they can go out and make a difference in the world.”

How many times have I thought that the amazing faculty who is here today is a reflection of those who have gone before them? And yet, their memories are fading or disappearing altogether. As will ours in time unless someone tells our stories. It goes beyond documenting facts. It goes It goes to pride in what our WVWC ancestors were able to accomplish, and how they contributed mightily to what we are today.

It goes beyond calling out their names.
It goes to telling about who they were and what they did.

It goes to respecting their hardships and losses,
their never giving in or giving up.

It goes to the dreams that they had for this college,
and those who would come after them (for us).

It goes to who they were and the kinds of decisions that they made.
The paths that they chose.

It goes to celebrating the great times,
and learning from the hard ones.

It goes to caring about and collecting their stories.
Organizing and preserving and sharing their stories.

As a scribe, I tell the stories of my WVWC family in hopes that these stories will call young and old to step up and restore the memories of our Home Among the Hills; or perhaps to learn them for the first time.

Here are a few of the reasons that this history is important
(excerpts from the HistoryRelevance.com Value Statement)

History enables people to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities, and nation. They learn the stories of the many individuals and groups that have come before them and shaped the world in which they live. . . .

No place is a community until it has awareness of its history. Our connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences. . . .

People are drawn to communities that have preserved a strong sense of historical identity and character. Their stories reveal how they met the challenges of their day, which can give new leaders the courage and wisdom to confront the challenges of our time. . . .

History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations.

February 26 Walking the Walk

If it is wrong, say so. Founded on the Social Principles and Social Creed of the Methodist tradition, West Virginia Wesleyan alumni are walking the walk.

Several times over the past several weeks, I came across stories of alumni speaking out, doing just what they were taught. From the Save the Crew movement in Columbus, Ohio, to immigration issues, to economic justice, to advocating for ecological responsibility, they were speaking out in public and were being heard. Each time I learn their work, I cannot help but think that they are doing just what we have taught them to do

Our Mission Statement says that:

> *West Virginia Wesleyan College prepares its students through its curriculum of arts and sciences, preprofessional, professional, and graduate studies, and its rich campus life program. As a residential institution of higher education, the College aspires to graduate broadly educated men and women who:*

- Think critically and creatively,
- Communicate effectively,
- Act responsibly, and
- Demonstrate their local and world citizenship through service.

For example, Bishop Tom Bickerton, Class of 1980, is the Bishop of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. His recent statement in response to offensive remarks by public officials and the unfairness of their policies is full of grace, hope, and justice. It calls for all of us to do our part to restore dignity and justice.

Or Wilson Harvey, Class of 2017 speaking of the current situation in West Virginia where public employees are not being given the respect or the benefits that they deserve. Wilson writes,

"It would be a serious moral and political miscalculation to issue legal injunctions to try and end the strike. I think that politicians seem to severely underestimate the bipartisan support that teachers appear to have from the electorate. There are some against the strike, but at least anecdotally it would appear that voters have teachers backs. Trust me, the state's teachers wouldn't be on strike for the first time since 1990 if there wasn't a really good reason." Wilson is a secondary teacher in Lewis County, West Virginia.

And 2003 graduate Adena Barnette is a teacher in Jackson County, West Virginia who has gone over and above in her care for her students, her continued lifelong learning, and her advocacy in this current situation. She spoke before the PEIA Board. They turned a deaf ear. She then gave that same message in a different form, publishing it in the Charleston Gazette.

These three (and many thousands of WVWC Alumni all over the world) have learned at the feet of such people as John Warner, Arthur Holmes, Tamara Bailey, Melissa Buice, Rob and Lynn Rupp, Shirley Fortney, and many others through the years too numerous to list here. They embody the very mission of the college.

They are walking the walk and making us proud.

March 3 Finding Your Purpose

Last week, I had an incredible opportunity to hear Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, speak two days in a row. Both days, her talk was focused on Collections of treasures, and how we can use them to learn about ourselves and our heritage. Both days, she mentioned the importance of sharing them. Both days, she gave speeches that I have made myself over the years. It was very validating! And, I may have to confess to a few tears of joy in hearing her talking about the purpose of libraries and how they are even more important now than ever before.

It had the same effect on me as an experience in 2011 when I was an honored participant in the Salzburg Global Seminar on *The Future of Libraries and Museums in an Era of Participatory Culture.*

The description of this session states: "Accepting the notion of democratic access, placing a major emphasis on public value and impact, and embracing lifelong learning were key overarching messages that emerged from deliberations at the recent seminar Libraries and Museums in an Era of Participatory Culture which was convened by the Salzburg Global Seminar in collaboration with the Washington-based Institute of Museum and Library Services. The session plunged fifty-eight library, museum, and cultural heritage leaders from thirty-one countries around the world into discussion, debate, and the development of a series of practical recommendations for ensuring maximum access to and engagement in museums and libraries, as they examined the meaning of "participatory culture" writ large."

Wow! Talk about a mountain top experience.

A few years ago, I saw a TED Talk by Adam Leipzig which was titled *How to Know Your Life Purpose in 5 Minutes*. Even though this was false advertising about how long it was (actually 10:33) it was a very effective talk. I just watched it again, and I still highly recommend it! By the end of it, I had written my Manifesto (Public Statement of Purpose). Others might call it a Mission Statement or an Elevator Pitch, but I think that the word Manifesto sounds a bit stronger. I decided to write one. Much of what I based this on, I learned here at the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library as a student, staff member, and director.

The Purpose of the Library

The library is operated by a group of people who are curious about everything, and have a deep desire to be helpful. We provide Information, Inspiration, and Entertainment to Faculty, Staff, and Students and the raw materials and tools to do their work. We help them to discover richer, more enjoyable, and more meaningful lives." *Paula McGrew, April 2016*

So – now for Paula's Library Manifesto
(the word *manifesto* means public statement of purpose)

What Libraries Do: Collect-Organize-Preserve-Share

What Libraries Are: Collections-Place-Service

What Libraries Provide: Information-Inspiration-Entertainment

Why We Do It: To make sure that faculty and students have the raw materials that they need in order to fulfill THEIR purposes.

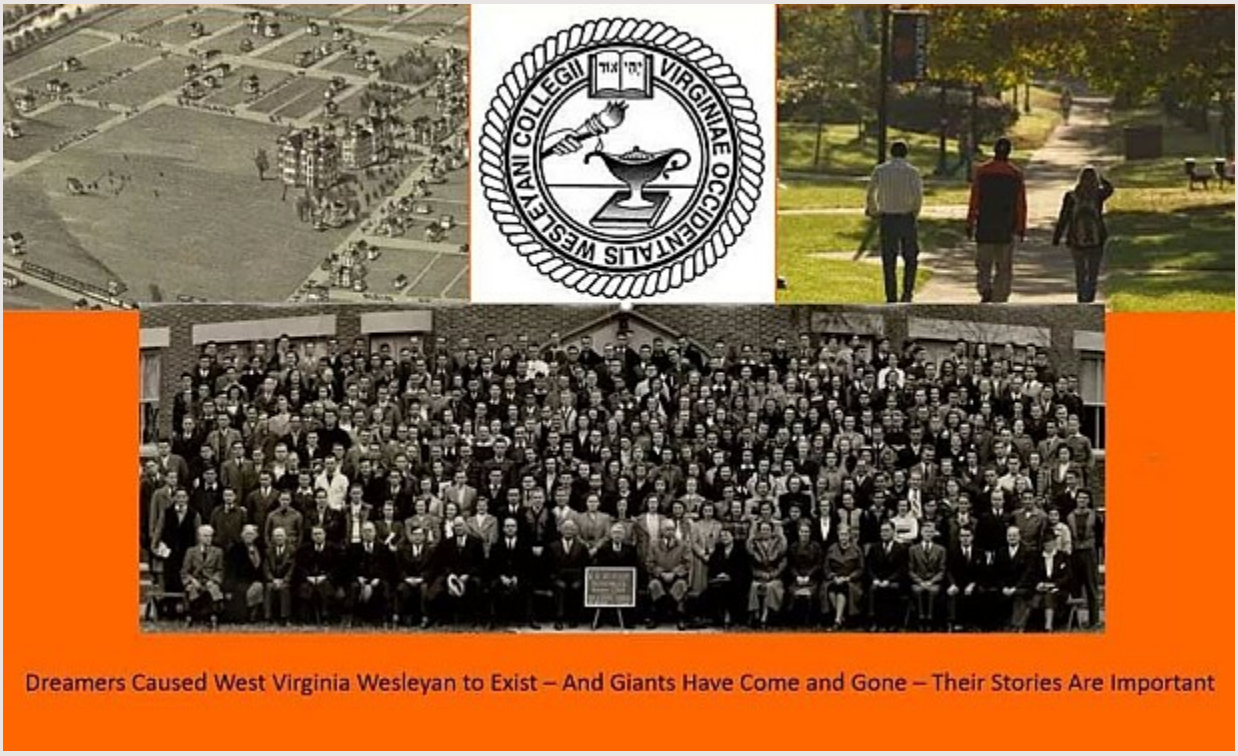
But what about my own personal manifesto for my retirement years?

As a graduate of the WVWC Class of 1978, and as a person who has had a long line of family members who are graduates also, I bring my research skills, genealogy tools, and interest in the college to the work of Collecting-Organizing-Preserving-and Sharing stories of those who have studied and worked here since the founding of the school. I do this to ensure that past generations will have a place to share their memories and present and future generations will have a place to learn about their heritage, to be inspired by it, and to enjoy knowing about those who have come before them in The Orange Line." *Paula McGrew, March 2018*

Why do I do this? Because stories are being lost, and along with them a great deal of our institutional memory and heritage. Social media is great for getting word out quickly, but these things are fleeting. There are no longer any yearbooks. The newspaper stories have a different emphasis and awareness than those in former times, and do not always convey the same types of campus information. I do this to honor those who have come before and to inspire those who are here now and who will be coming in the future.

What do students and alumni need and want? Well, perhaps a perspective beyond that of their own day and time and a sense of the legacy they have been given.

Are any students changed as a result of this work? I'd like to think so. They come to see themselves as a continuation of a larger purpose. Rather than just flitting from meeting to meeting, class to class, assignment to assignment, crisis to crisis, they are able to know about the situations that have been part of the history along the way. They can see how others have approached them. They truly become part of what we call The Orange Line.



March 12 March Madness Is Nothing New

It is time for March Madness!

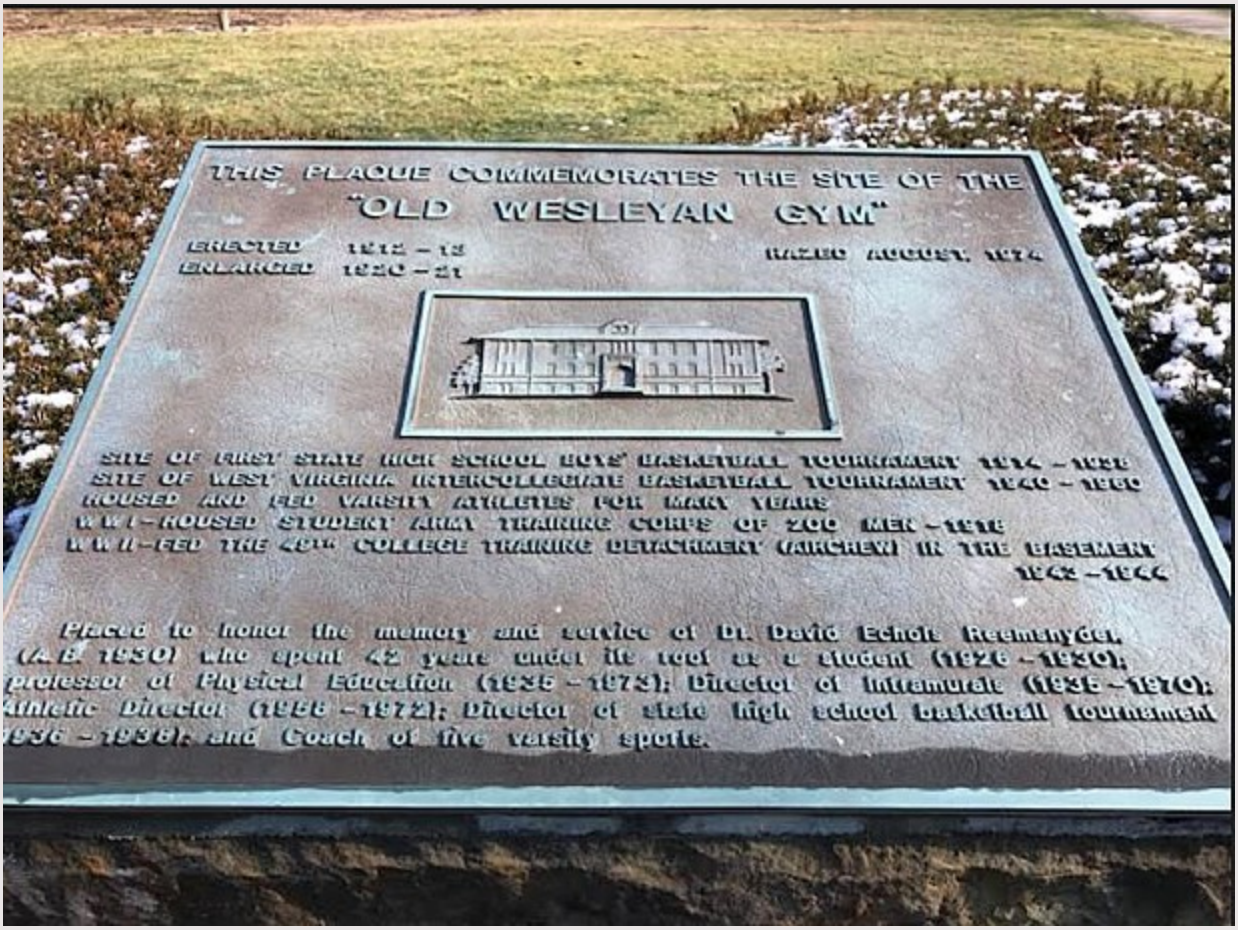
The game of basketball began in 1891, and less than 25 years later had already become quite a competitive sport among high schools and colleges.

The West Virginia boys' high school basketball tournament began in Buckhannon on March 21, 1914. The Gymnasium had been built in 1912, and was considered to be the largest and finest in the state of West Virginia.

That year, Elkins and Wheeling each claimed to be the best in the state, and West Virginia Wesleyan issued an invitation to come and settle the matter. Elkins emerged victorious and became the first "State Champions."

The following year, 1915, our own Wesleyan athletic director Harry Stansbury contacted high schools all over West Virginia, inviting them to participate in an open tournament for the state basketball title. Fourteen teams answered the call, and the building of a sports tradition was under way.

The Gymnasium stood until it was razed in 1974 – the year that the John D. Rockefeller IV Physical Education Center opened.


THIS PLAQUE COMMEMORATES THE SITE OF THE
"OLD WESLEYAN GYM"
ERECTED 1911 – 12
ENLARGED 1920 – 21
RAZED AUGUST, 1974
SITE OF FIRST STATE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 1914 – 1935
SITE OF WEST VIRGINIA INTERCOLLEGIATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 1940 – 1950
HOUSED AND FED VARSITY ATHLETES FOR MANY YEARS
W.W.I – HOUSED STUDENT ARMY TRAINING CORPS OF 200 MEN – 1918
W.W.II – FED THE 49TH COLLEGE TRAINING DETACHMENT (MARCHEW) IN THE BASEMENT
1942 – 1944
Placed to honor the memory and service of Dr. David Echols Reemsnyder,
(A.B. 1930) who spent 42 years under its roof as a student (1926 – 1930);
professor of Physical Education (1935 – 1973); Director of Intramurals (1935 – 1970);
Athletic Director (1955 – 1972); Director of state high school basketball tournament
1936 – 1938); and Coach of five varsity sports.

March 19 Transformation

Fall 2012

In the fall of 2012, the room in the back on the first floor of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, the Upshur Reading Room, was beginning to be used for programs. Both campus and community members gathered to be informed, to be inspired, and to have discussions. Like the Town Squares in the olden days, it was a place for people to come and find information and to discuss it.

One particularly inspirational evening in the autumn of 2012, Dr. Robert Rupp came to the library to give a lecture about candidates for an upcoming election. And we had quite a crowd.

But, the backdrop was not great – with open walls back to where journals were stored blocked off by a series of filing cabinets. On the cabinets were stacks of papers, microfilm boxes, and dead plants. Not exactly the kind of thing we were proud to show off on the evening news reports – and the press did come that night.

The Library was inspired to have a more appropriate and visually appealing place for these programs. Funding from the Friends of the Library made it possible to install a partition between the Reading Room and the periodical storage area. Filing cabinets and dead plants were removed.

In consultation with Ellen Mueller, a professor in the Art Department from 2012-2017, we received submissions for the creation of a mural. She included the project as part of an assignment for the class. Several wonderful designs were submitted, and we chose a design by Spencer Kinnard.

Left to right: Ellen Mueller, Spencer Kinnard, Paula McGrew

Click here to see a time lapse video of Spencer as he creates his masterpiece.

His design placed the Greek Philosophers in the center, scientists and medical leaders in the upper right corner, philosophers and religious readers in the lower right, artists and musicians on the lower left, and writers on the upper left. This is generally where books on those topics are located in this library. Genius!

The Mural was given a tag,
a serious set of questions,
for despite everything we have learned,
questions linger and remain.

Who are we?
Where are we going?W
What will tomorrow bring?

The mural brought a beautiful and meaningful transformation of the space. Be sure to stop by and take a closer look at it the next time you are in the library. (p.s. there is a cheat sheet mounted on the wall so that you can identify all of the people on the mural).

Above: Fall 2012
Right: April 2013

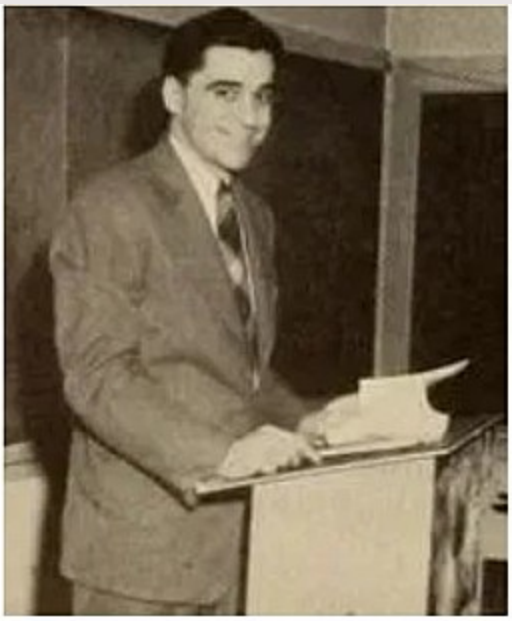
Transformation!!

Editor's Note: The mural is no longer in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, as it was removed during renovation in 2019

March 26 The World Comes to Wesleyan

Throughout the history of West Virginia Wesleyan College, many amazing people have come to Buckhannon to speak and to share ideas with our community. Although we are located in a small and rural town, we have consistently been right in the middle of the issues and arts of the world. Here are just a few examples which might surprise you.

Alex Haley spoke at the Convocation at West Virginia Wesleyan College on March 30, 1971. This is three years before the publication of Roots, but it would appear that he was well into his research for that project at the time he came to campus. Click here to read an article about this



Press Maravich Joins Wesleyan Athletic Staff

A colorful addition to the athletic staff this year is Press Maravich, who comes to our campus as head basketball and track coach, and assistant professor of physical education. Press has a magnificent record in collegiate and professional basketball as well as experience in coaching and teaching, thus presenting himself a capable worker under Athletic Director O. B. Ross.

Press, an Aliquippi, Pa. product, received his BA degree at Davis & Elkins College in 1941. There he played four years of varsity basketball, set the school's all-time four year scoring mark, and was named to the Intercollegiate All-conference Team. He went on with the hoop sport playing professional ball with the Worlds Champion Detroit Eagles during the season of 1941-42. The next season found Maravich on the roster of the Pittsburgh Ironmen and later the Youngstown Bears, then he entered the armed forces and was assigned to the Naval Air Corps.

While in the service, Press continued to work in athletics by coaching the Konosoko Klippers to the Hawaiian championship. He was named flight instructor at Pensacola Naval Air Station, also coaching basketball there and after four years of duty he was discharged.

Returning to D&E Press received his BS degree in 1947 and served as assistant coach to "Red" Brown of the Senators. Then he moved on to West Virginia University where he worked as an aide to Lee Patton of the Mountaineers until he received his masters degree in 1949 and came to Wesleyan.

Pharos October 11, 1949

In 1969, Maya Angelou published her famous work, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. This book made history as the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American author.

Georgia, Georgia, which made her the first African-American woman to have her screenplay produced. The following year, 1973, Angelou earned a Tony Award nomination for her role in the play Look Away.

Pharos – November 14, 1972

Jimmy Carter Visits Wesleyan

On November 11, 1985, Wesleyan had the pleasure of being visited by President Jimmy Carter. After arriving on campus, a banquet was held in his honor with the Mason Crickard scholars in the top of the SCOW. He then spoke to an excited audience in the chapel. He spoke about world peace. Students had the opportunity to present questions to be answered by President Carter. These were read by Dean Wellmon. Everyone enjoyed having his question answered by such a prominent person. Community Council president Rob Bytheway presented Carter with the title of "Honorary Bobcat" and gave him a plaque and a WVWC Bobcat sweatshirt. Everyone was thrilled to have such an important person visit their campus and town.

Right: President Jimmy Carter speaks about world peace. Lower Right: Carter holds his plaque making him "Honorary Bobcat". Lower Left: President Carter answers questions presented to him by the students. Below: President Carter and President Laurner await introductions.

Murmurmontis 1986

In 1985, Jimmy Carter was awarded the West Virginia Wesleyan Peace Award for his work with The Camp David Peace Accord.

Professor Olson, Associate Professor of Sociology (1979-1982), created the West Virginia Wesleyan Peace Award.

Winners have included:

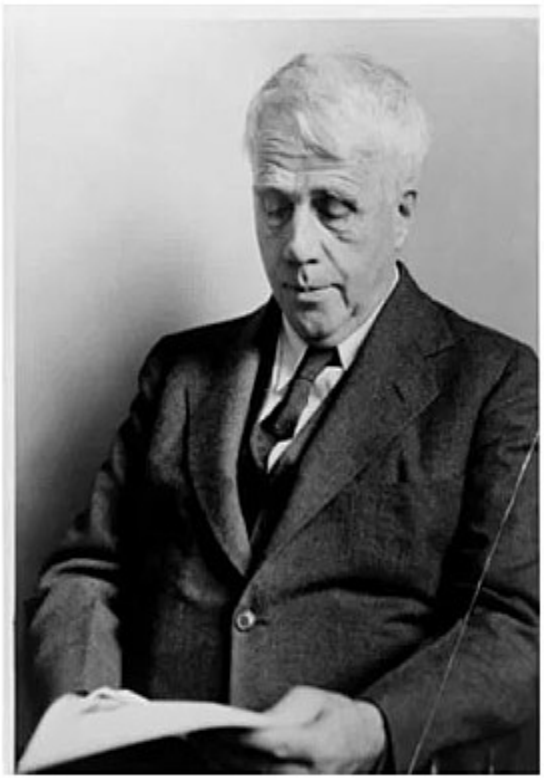
- Senator Jennings Randolph (1985)
- Jimmy Carter (1985)
- Retired Admiral Eugene Carroll, Jr. (1987)
- United Methodist Council of Bishops (1988)
- Ossie Davis (1992)
- b.f. maiz (1994)
- Julian Bond (2007)

Julian Bond

March 31, 1979

Wesley Chapel

Black Awareness Week



Can you just imagine what it was like to hear Robert Frost read and talk about his poetry in the Agnes Howard Hall Lounge on a snowy evening in December 1934?

obert Frost Unexpectedly Visits Here

Students Wait at Ladies' Hall To Welcome Famous Bard To Wesleyan

Wesleyan had a famous visitor on its campus last week. A large number of both students and faculty greeted Robert Frost, world famous poet and philosopher, when he unexpectedly visited the college. The literary-minded knew that he was in Clarksburg, and a number planned to journey there to hear him, but a larger group was able to come into contact with him, and become acquainted with him by this visit.

Mr. Frost, idle professor of Amherst College, is known as the outstanding poet of America today, and will probably rank at the top in the future as well. A New Englander,

(Continued on page 4)

ROBERT FROST

(Continued from page 1)

Frost writes of his home country, homely verses of the soil, of human lives, and of his philosophy of life, which is cheerful. He has published five small volumes, and then, lately, a collection of his poems. One of them, "New Hampshire," won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1924.

While talking to the students in Agnes Howard Hall, Mr. Frost read "Birches" and "Stopping by woods on a snowy evening," two of his best-loved poems. His personality added to the poems, and made them mean more.

In the evening Mr. Frost spoke before a large audience in the Washington-Irving auditorium. He talked informally, and read twelve poems and an encore. His explanations of the poems made them more vivid, and his clever, conversational tone made everyone like him. He is the third famous American poet who has been within driving distance of Wesleyan this year; Carl Sandburg, last spring, Louis Untermeyer in Glenville this fall preceding him.

Pharos, December 1934

Helen Keller spoke to an overflowing crowd in Atkinson Auditorium on May 30, 1907. Newspapers report that she received a standing ovation which she could neither see nor hear.

Ronald C. White spoke in Wesley Chapel on February 14, 2017. His powerful lecture about his book, *Lincoln's Greatest Speech* showed how the words of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address have great meaning for us in the present as well.

Dr. White is a world renowned expert on Lincoln, and the author of many best selling books including *A. Lincoln* and *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant.*

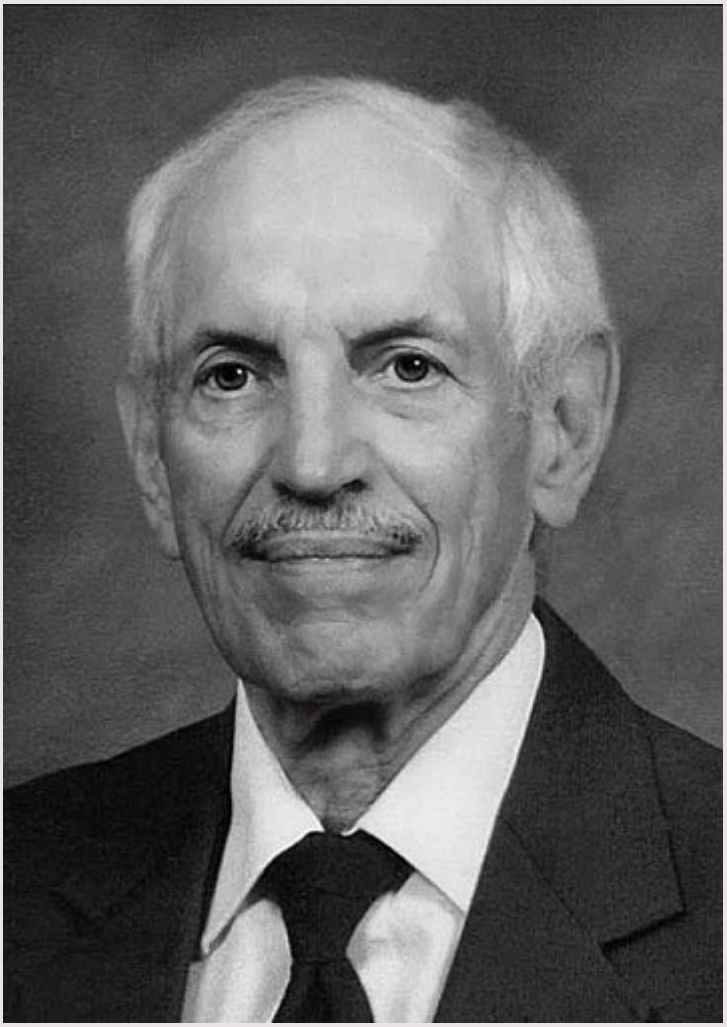
April 2 Giants Among Us

September 2017

The sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Buckhannon was full this afternoon. Full of people who had come to celebrate the life of Phyllis Coston. Although only 4'11" tall, Phyllis was one of the great Giants. People came to express support to her husband, Herb, and to share stories of how this wonderful woman had impacted their lives. They came to honor her teaching, her sense of humor, her tenacity. They came to honor her faith and the way she lived it and shared it. Many mentioned how much they loved seeing Phyllis and Herb out walking and talking together on campus.

However, this week West Virginia Wesleyan has lost not just one, but two of the Giants. Phyllis Kohl Coston died on March 25, and Dr. Robert Chamberlain on March 29. They are both prime examples of why I am compelled to keep working on DreamersAndGiants for surely their stories must be collected, organized, preserved, and shared.

Dr. Chamberlain's service will be at noon on Thursday in the very same place. Both of these wonderful people have been very active members of First United Methodist Church. He served as the college physician and team physician at West Virginia Wesleyan for fifty years. He has cured many and comforted many. I can only imagine what new stories I will hear on Thursday.



April 9 Planting Seeds

Legacy. What is a legacy?
It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.
I wrote some notes at the beginning of a song someone will sing for me.

These words, from the musical *Hamilton* (The World Was Wide Enough) ring very true for many of the Dreamers and the Giants. Conversations with Lincoln, a two-day event last weekend, is a great example. They were brought to the attention of the gathered crowd by speaker, Beth Wasson.

Charles Aubrey Jones, graduated from the West Virginia Conference Seminary in 1904. Although this was a preparatory course, I think most of us would find it pretty daunting. Latin and Greek, Geometry, Botany, History, and Literature, and more. Click here to see what courses Charles Aubrey Jones had to master!

His path then took him to Ohio Wesleyan and beyond. Along the way, he served as the personal secretary to U.S. Senator Frank B. Willis and later to Governor Myers Y. Cooper of Ohio. While spending time in Washington, D.C., he became acquainted with Colonel O.H. Oldroyd — a person who was an avid collector of all things Lincoln. In fact, Jones and Oldroyd were active participants in saving the house where Lincoln died from becoming a parking lot!

Charles Aubrey Jones began collecting Lincolniana as well, and amassed a very fine collection of books, pamphlets, handbills, signatures, framed portraits, and one of only 33 bronzed copies of a rare Life Mask. All of these things (at the time the third largest such private collection east of the Mississippi), he willed to his Alma Mater, West Virginia Wesleyan. He wanted to promote scholarship about Lincoln, and to spark the interest of future students.

Last year, on Valentine's Day, the funds that he had provided along with the collection made it possible to bring in a world-renowned Lincoln scholar, Ronald C. White. On that cold winter evening, the garden planted by Charles Aubrey Jones was sprouting.

Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln visit Brett Miller in Upshur Reading Room

The speakers and events of last weekend's *Conversations with Lincoln* were organized in large part by students. They were supported by History faculty as well, and by Trustee Kevin Spear – himself a 1976 graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan. Events were held at Buckhannon-Upshur High School, and 4th and 5th grade students had a chance to visit with Mr. Lincoln at the Upshur County Public Library.

Charles Aubrey Jones must have been beaming with pride to see others singing his song. And, quite possibly, the song of Lincoln as well.

April 14 Hooray for Spring!

Hooray for Spring!

May has been celebrated at West Virginia Wesleyan College for a very long time. With the school calendar being much different in the early years, often there was a May Festival complete with a Queen and her court. A serenade, variety show, or play was provided for the entertainment of the Queen, her court, and the assembled crowd. For example, in 1928 Queen May Gibson was entertained by *The May-Pole of Merry Mount"* written by Nathaniel Hawthorne. 1929 brought " *The Law of the Fairies"* to Queen Marian Canan. The entertainment in 1930 included individual and group singing, dancing, and acting which was based around the theme of the Italian Love Story of Harlequin and Columbine.

Those early years, the event was generally planned and directed by the Woman's Athletic Association. Beginning in the early 1950s, it transitioned to be a function of the Community Council and the Special Events Committee

Tonight (April 14) we will find out who the winners will be for 2018. Best of luck to all! Click here to see who has been victorious in the past. And, maybe, help fill in some of the blanks for us!

April 16 Pathways of Wesleyan

The pathways of Wesleyan are busy places. People have walked them for nearly 128 years. People have come from all over the world. They have come from down the street. They walk in the sunshine, the rain, and the snow.

Admission tours are the ones where there is someone walking backwards and pointing out the sights to tour groups full of people who are walking slowly and looking around.

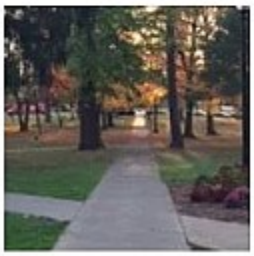
New students often look uncertain for a day or two, but soon they are striding confidently toward classes or the cafeteria or the library. They are on their way to their future.

After Commencement, the faculty lines the pathway to applaud the hard work and success of their students. Tears are sometimes shed.

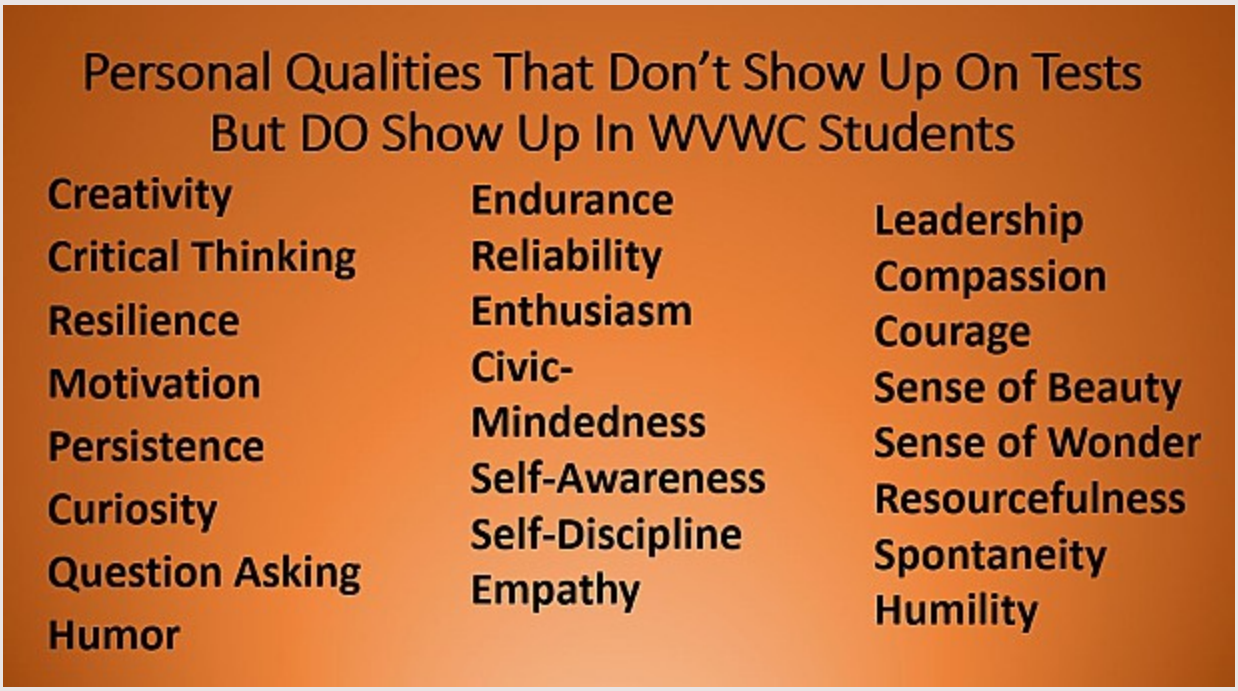
These pathways are beautiful.

I am not the first to love and enjoy them — and I won't be the last. There was a Dean named Arthur Allen Schoolcraft, who wrote a wonderful reflection about them for the yearbook in 1955. He tells about the students who have come, have walked these pathways, and who have gone out to change the world. He talks about the professors who helped to make that happen. It is not long, but once you read it you will never look at these pathways, or the people who walk them, in quite the same way again. Take a look at Pathways of Wesleyan.

It begins: "The pathways of Wesleyan are as numerous as the ever-increasing host of students who come hither, over hill and dale, over land and sea, and over the long stretches of the years; who live, and labor, and learn together, on this campus beautiful, and wholesome, and enlightening; and then go hence to domiciles, and duties, and destinies as different as their points of origin, and as they themselves."



April 23 Awards and Awesomeness



How do I know this? Because I have seen them in action. In the assembly on Saturday, awards were presented for Academics, Arts, and Athletics. There were Outstanding Writers, Researchers, Musicians, Dancers, Speakers, and Teachers. Marketers, Economists, Political Scientists, Historians and Humanitarians. It was impressive. As the students went forward to receive their certificates and plaques, I had a wonderful feeling that the world would be just fine with them in charge.

As if that was not proof enough, I have also seen them in action giving presentations, singing and playing in concerts, and on the athletic fields. I've seen theater productions, dancers, and students organizing and leading worship services in Chapel and on Ash Wednesday.

West Virginia Wesleyan College was founded by the Methodists in 1890, and has long nurtured and valued these qualities. It is what makes us who we are. Today marks the 50th Anniversary of the date that the Methodists and Evangelical United Brethren Churches joined together as the United Methodist Church. As I was reading through this wonderful list of 50 Reasons to Celebrate the United Methodist Church, I recognized that tradition in our students. The celebration is the same!

To name just a few of the things that I recognized:

#1 John Wesley

#5 So many amazing kids, doing so many acts of kindness for their neighbors

#7 Young Adults sharing their gifts

#11 Care deeply about climate

#16 Promote ecumenical dialogue

#23 Use their talents to praise God and grow in their faith while inspiring others with their music

#31 To alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing

#34 Volunteering in relief efforts around the world

#37 To address the mental physical and spiritual well-being of all

#29 To remember our role as stewards of God's earth and care for creation

#40 Taking a stand against racism

#42 Wesleyan Heritage which put an emphasis on "practical divinity"

#47 Social Principles and Social Creed

#50 Our history, which gives us roots and can inspire us today

I think that the Founders would be proud!

April 26 50 Years Ago Today the WVWC Choir Sang At The Uniting Conference in Dallas!

Exactly 50 years ago today (April 26, 1968), Assistant Professor John E. Taylor conducted as the WVWC Choir sang at the Uniting Conference in Dallas, Texas in 1968. This was a huge deal. And, they did as well as you would have expected — and received a standing ovation from the approximately 10,000 people present.

TOUR CHOIR

ROW 1: Margaret Coale, Jane Reed, Jennie Stevens; Connie Johnston; Barbara Sherburne; Judith Cain; Caroline Bell; Ruthann Johnson; Ann Gardner; Melba Gainer; Jane Witherite. ROW 2: Roger Wolfe, John Stranges, George Chewning, Rose Wilson, Charles Evans, Chris Rapking, Barbara McKinnon, Lee Heatwole, Pat La Corte, Jane Daugherty, Prudy Mercer, Barbara Starkey, Pat Davis, Frank Fowler. ROW 3: Richard Yule, Joe Holoski, Howard Doak, Diane Poland, Lee Lambert, Ed Byrom, Hulse Budd, Robert Johnson, Allan Gillis, Patricia Wass, Dick Crook, Keith Muhleman, Gary O'Neal, John Taylor.

According to the 1968 Murmurmontis:

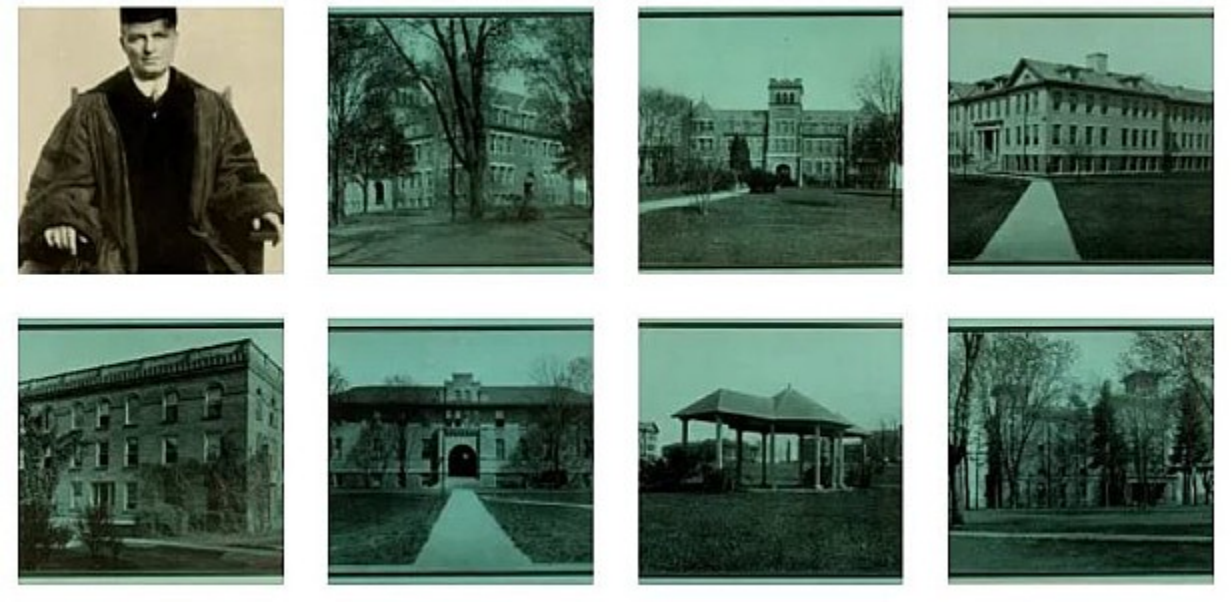
“The highlight of the year for Wesleyan’s choir took place in Dallas, Texas. The tour choir received a standing ovation during its appearance at the Uniting Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches.

Wesleyan is very fortunate to have such an outstanding choir. Mr. Taylor, though his rehearsals consumed much of the members’ free time, has once again produced an excellent choir. Chapel services are held weekly with the Wesleyan choir providing the music. The Chorale as well as the choir present many special performances each academic year.”

Mr. Taylor is one of those people who was a Giant. A name that many may have forgotten or never heard. His work followed the work of Irma Helen Hopkins (1958-1965), and the work he did here has been carried on in like fashion by such people as Larry Parsons (1969-2013) and Dan Hughes (2012-current).

We may not realize it, but all of us are standing on the shoulders of Giants.

April 30 Of Thee We Sing



When President Wallace B. Fleming wrote our Alma Mater in 1918, this was the campus he was inspired by. 100 years later, some things look familiar — and yet very different.

We have sung this music, with the lyrics set to the tune of the opera *Lucia di Lamamore*, thousands of times in the past century. Or, rather, we sing the first verse – perhaps because it is a bit musically challenging for many.

There were actually four verses, with the last repeating the first. On rare occasions we have included the third verse. My personal favorite, however, might actually be verse two. Here are the lyrics to all of the verses.

Verse 1:
Alma Mater, of the Mountains
West Virginia Wesleyan.
At thy magic mystic fountains,
Noblest dreams of life began.
We, thy children, bow before thee,
We, thy children, now adore thee
And pledge God, who watches o'er thee,
Thou shalt fill the ample measures of His plan.

Verse 2:
Alma Mater, Queen of Learning,
of the Orange and the Black,
At thy call to wisdom turning,
naught of worth they sons shall lack.
For the teaching of thy sages,
With the writ of sacred pages,
Will transmit the wealth of ages
Down the future's ever-wider, brighter track.

Verse 3:
Alma Mater of the Highlands,
Guardian of romantic years.
Thou dost bring us to the skylands
With thy faith dispel our fears.
Give us friendship waning never
And a call to high endeavor
And companionship forever, with the
God who guides the courses of the spheres.

Verse 4:
Alma Mater, of the Mountains
West Virginia Wesleyan.
At thy magic mystic fountains,
Noblest dreams of life began.
We, thy children, bow before thee,
We, thy children, now adore thee
And pledge God, who watches o'er thee,
Thou shalt fill the ample measures of His plan.

When asked, many people believe that our official Alma Mater is actually a different song altogether. We sing *My Home Among the Hills* at all occasions. It brings a tear to the eye, as these types of songs tend to do. But this is actually a pretty modern phenomenon.

Written in 1963 by E.W. "Bill" James of Clarksburg, this song was first part of a play that James wrote to celebrate the West Virginia Centennial. It encompasses the entire state, and is especially descriptive of North Central West Virginia, where WVWC is located. He was a Trustee of WVWC from 1964-1978, and received an Honorary Degree in 1973. Our choirs have enthusiastically embraced this musical tribute to the area.

[Verse 1]
There's a land of rolling mountains
Where the sky is blue above
And though I may roam, I hurry home
To those friendly hills I love

[Verse 2]
Where moonlit meadows ring
With the call of whippoorwills
Always you will find me in my home among the hills
And where the sun draws rainbows in the mist
Of waterfalls and mountain rills
My heart will be always in the West Virginia Hills

[Verse 3]
There, autumn hillsides are bright with scarlet trees
And in the spring, the robins sing
While apple blossoms whisper in the breeze
And there is music in the flashing streams
And joy in fields of daffodils
Laughter through the happy valleys of my home among the hills

One celebrates the earliest years, and the values that make us who we are.

The other celebrates the beautiful place where we are located.

Both bring a tear to my eye.

May 7 Hymn of Promise

We tend to think things have always been the way we have experienced them. Or, that they will always be the way they are now. They haven't and they won't.

The students who graduated this Saturday will always have a particular image of West Virginia Wesleyan College in their minds. The Chapel Bells ringing from Wesley Chapel, the fountain cheerfully spraying orange water into the sky, the faces of those that they know, and have come to love, will be of particular people.

This, however, was the 127th Commencement at the college. Faces have changed. Buildings have changed. There were no Chapel Bells . . . and no Wesley Chapel in years gone by. Commencement didn't always happen in the John D. Rockefeller, IV Physical Education Building! Students who came here with dreams have gone out and fulfilled them, and done even more than they could have imagined. The 2018 graduates will do the same.

1968

2018

Natalie Sleeth, wife of Ronald E. Sleeth (the 13th President of West Virginia Wesleyan College) captured this idea beautifully in her music. [Be sure to click on their names to discover more about these amazing people].

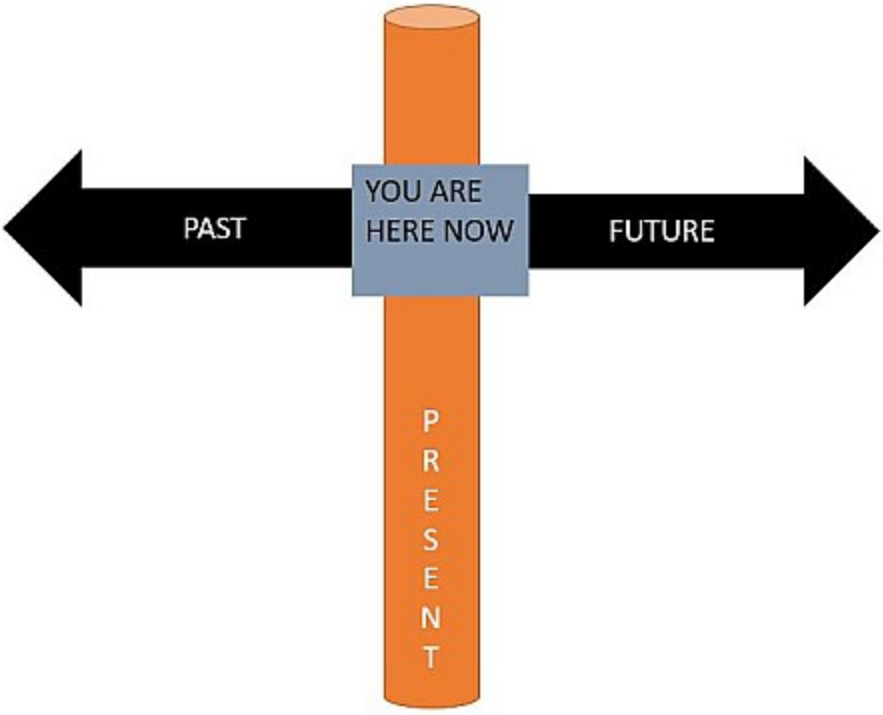
Her *Hymn of Promise* is one of the most beloved hymns of the 20th Century, and was written in 1985. It is often sung at funerals. In fact, Ronald requested that it be included in his own funeral a month after it was first performed. However, I think it is just as perfect and relevant for Commencements! It is universal. Each graduate has grown and matured. They are ready to launch into their future — something God alone can see.

In the bulb there is a flower; In the seed an apple tree
In cocoons a hidden promise: Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

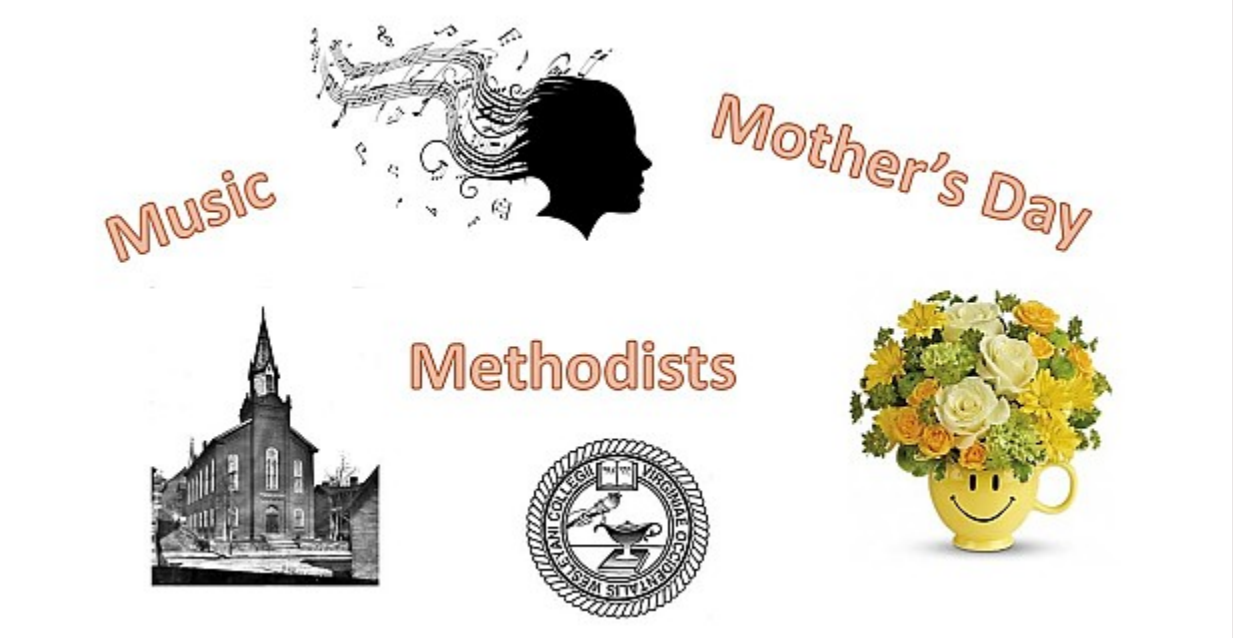
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

From the past will come the future – What it holds a mystery
Unrevealed until its season – Something God alone can see
Natalie Sleeth, 1985



May 14 Music, Methodists, Mother's Day



Mother's Day makes the news each year. We hear a lot about Anna Jarvis and the First Mother's Day in 1908. But, as with most things, there are subplots to that story.

What do the things in the photo above have in common?

L.L. Loar

Lawson L. Loar was a successful merchant in Clarksburg, WV. He was also the Superintendent of the Sunday school of Andrews Methodist Episcopal church, in Grafton, W. Va. during the first Mother's Day service held there in 1908, and gave of his time and money to help lead the plans for establishing the annual memorial to Motherhood. He died in 1938.

Until 1941, the West Virginia area was supporting two colleges: West Virginia Wesleyan and Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston). With the uniting of the Methodist Episcopal North, the Methodist Episcopal South, and the Methodist Protestant Churches in 1939, it became obvious that the area could not support two colleges, and West Virginia Wesleyan was named the one college of what was then the fourth largest Conference in the Methodist Church. 1943, there was a campaign to help provide for the future and strengthening of the college (The Great Wesleyan Movement).

Through the close connection between West Virginia Wesleyan College and the Methodist Church, Mrs. Lawson L. Loar agreed in 1943 to provide funds for the Hall of Music as a memorial to the Loar Family. This was a great act of faith and commitment at a time when the nation was facing World War once again. The building was not finished until 1953, but the funds were assured.

L.L. Loar had a connection to Mother's Day, and to the Methodist Church.

Mrs. L.L. Loar provided funds for the Hall of Music in memory of the family through her own strong connection with the Methodist Conference and her belief in West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Music — Methodists — Mother's Day

There is another interesting connection between Mother's Day and West Virginia Wesleyan College. Dr. Katharine Antolini, Assistant Professor of History and Gender Studies, did her doctoral studies about Anna Jarvis and the Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton, WV. According to Chapter 2, p. 46 of Antolini's book, Jarvis was later offered a teaching position at the West Virginia Conference Seminary (now WVWC) to teach English and Shorthand. For reasons unknown, she did not come. Antolini is considered to be a primary expert on the subject of Anna Jarvis and serves on the Board of Trustees of the International Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton.

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May 21 Caring For Our Campus

This 1915 photograph from the Library of Congress is not “Old Bob” but it is certently representative of him

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The May 1947 issue of the Sundial (alumni news publication) has a great little story about the retirement of an important member of the college community.

“Old Bob” Retires

“Old Bob,” the faithful horse-of-all-trades on the Wesleyan campus, has been replaced by two new pieces of equipment — a shiny red truck and an efficient gray tractor. To many Wesleyan alumni, “Old Bob” was a campus institution during his long years of service, and we are sure you will be happy to know that his new owner has promised to give him a good home. “Old Bob” was born on the Wesleyan campus 19 years ago, and it was a familiar sight to see him diligently mowing the lawns in summer or clearing snow from the walks in winter. Although the new machines will probably be more efficient than “Bob,” the Wesleyan horse will be missed by his many friends.

These photo post cards, published in the 1926 Murmurmontis show the campus as it appeared just two years before “Bob” was born on the campus. These were the only buildings until 1953.

Our campus has been a source of pride since the very beginning. The beautiful setting and the buildings are an important part of the Wesleyan experience. The 1926 Murmurmontis included a message to past, current, and future students concerning the aesthetic beauty of the campus.

TO OUR CAMPUS

TO YOU to whom Wesleyan lingers in a dear remembered past, to you for whom Wesleyan looms in a not far distant yesterday; to you for whom Wesleyan is yet in the promise of tomorrow, we dedicate these views. Perhaps they may bring back a recollection dimmed with years; mayhap provoke a smile of recent memories, or even bring a wistful dream into some quiet young eyes. And if some one or two of you, in gazing at these pages, slowly-turned, shall pause betimes and smile and then sigh, remembering dim, cool halls; sun-flecked walks; and the mellow peal of the old bell—then it is not in vain these memories have been given you.

Here is the text of the message:

TO YOU to whom Wesleyan lingers in a dear remembered past, to you for whom Wesleyan looms in a not far distant yesterday; to you for whom Wesleyan is yet in the promise of tomorrow, we dedicate these views. Perhaps they may bring back a recollection dimmed with years; mayhap provoke a smile of recent memories, or even bring a wistful dream into some quiet young eyes. And if some one or two of you, in gazing at these pages, slowly-turned, shall pause betimes and smile and then sigh, remembering dim, cool halls; sun-flecked walks; and the mellow peal of the old bell — then it is not in vain these memories have been given you.

The Giants who have kept these buildings maintained, the leaves raked in the fall, and those sun-flecked walks shoveled in winter have played a huge role in the history of the school. Their heroics too often go unsung.

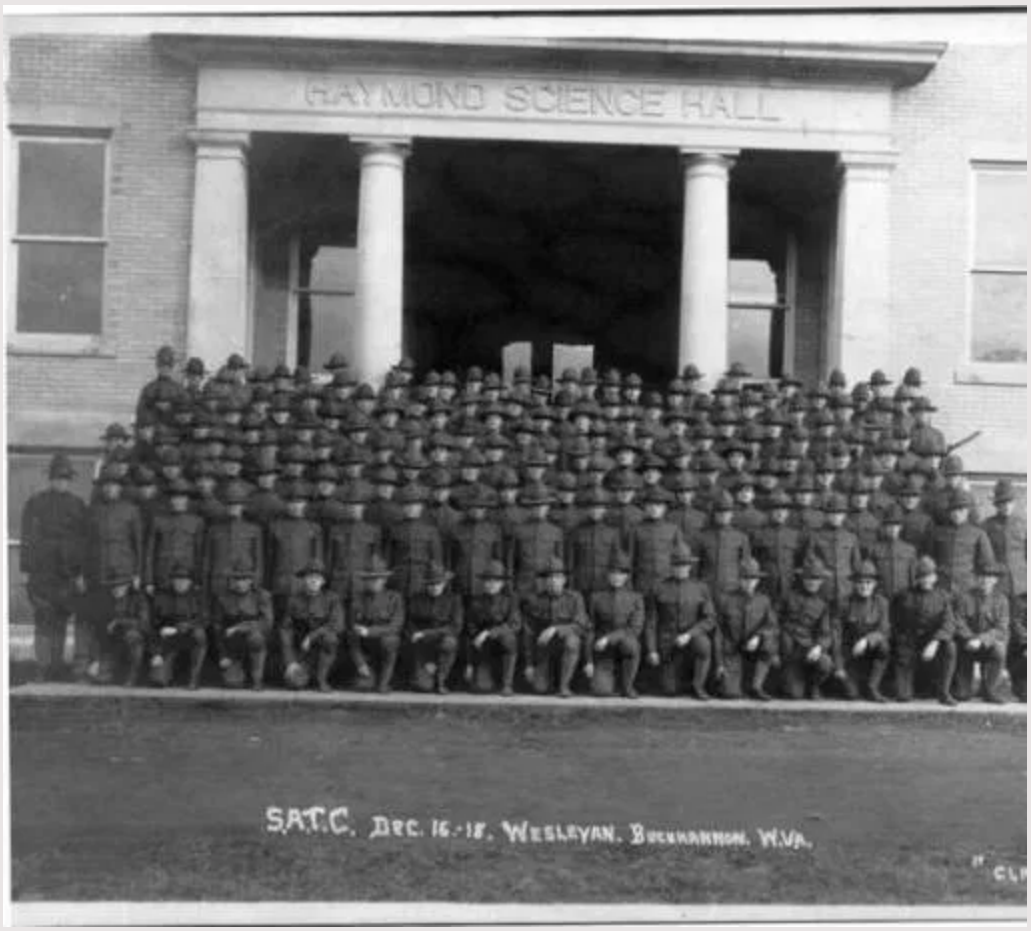
Their tools are much different now.

So, on this 61st anniversary of his retirement, I want to say:
Well done, "Old Bob" and those who have come after. Your hard work has done much to create and care for the beautiful campus we enjoy today.

May 28 Heroes

On this Memorial Day, it is fitting to pay tribute to the role that West Virginia Wesleyan College played in the training of troops in various wars.

In his book, *A History of West Virginia Wesleyan College 1890-1965,* Kenneth M. Plummer writes of the impact of World Wars I and II on the campus. In so doing, he also chronicles the impact of West Virginia Wesleyan on the Wars.



World War I
Student Army Training Corp., 1918

The entrance of the United States into World War I brought to the campus a Student Army Training Corp of about 200 men. The military training program which was to have begun September 1, 1918, actually ran only from the beginning of October to the early days of December. The corps was housed in the gymnasium. The Music Hall was converted to a hospital to care for members of the corps who were stricken during the influenza epidemic.
Plummer, p.55

There were other impacts as well, including the process of mourning and grieving for soldiers who did not come home. President Wallace B. Fleming is a beautiful example of this. Roy Earl Parrish, class of 1908, was one of those soldiers. Please take a moment to read President Fleming's prayer, which he offered on January 21, 1919 at the West Virginia Legislature's Memorial Service for one of their own members: A Prayer for Roy Earl Parrish.

Plummer writes about World War II.

The impact of World War II was brought dramatically to the campus when early in March 1943, there arrived a contingent of officers and trainees subsequently organized as the 49th College Training Detachment (Aircrew). Students in Agnes Howard Hall were vacated and moved to living quarters in town in order to provide living space and staff offices for the detachment. Classrooms were provided using available space int he music hall, the gymnasium and by increased use of other facilities. The trainees were fed in a basement hall in the gymnasium. The college obtained sole use of the flying field on Brushy Fork for the training of the detachment. In addition to the men being trained for combat service, the college also maintained a program for training aides to draftsmen, engineers and chemists at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. A short, intensive course was provided for cadet nurses in training at St. Mary's Hospital in Clarksburg. The training crew of aircrew cadets ended June 1944, the program for Wright Field aides was closed at the end of the war, the courses for cadet nurses were given during the summer terms if 1944 and 1945. Seven hundred seventy-four aircrew cadets, four hundred eighty-seven aides, and seventy-eight cadet nurses were registered in these programs. The courses offered were regular college courses modified according to the suggestions of military educational directors in order to meet the needs of the program. On February 29, 1946, in cooperation with the Air Technical Command Service of the United States Air Force, Wesleyan inaugurated a twelve-month course of training on the college level for veterans interested in placement as engineering aides in the laboratories at Wright Field. The program was designed to train a minimum of one hundred fifty men. Plummer, 93-94

Click the link below to read more about what life was like on our campus during the war years. Some familiar names are included!

Cub Flier (September 20, 1943)

Includes some interesting stories of wartime at Wesleyan, such as:

- *Reemsnyder, Man With the Frog*
- *The Song of the 49th*
- *D.P. (Detachment Police) Keeps Eye on the 49ers*

We remember all who have given the ultimate sacrifice. And we remember those who have prepared for and fought bravely in wars long past.

Fear not that ye had died for naught,
The torch ye threw to us we caught,
Ten million hands will hold it high,
And freedom's light shall never die!
We've learned the lesson that ye taught,
In Flanders field.

excerpt from "America's Answer" by R. W. Lilliard, 1918

Editor's Note: In the years following the First World War, Moina Michael (an American teacher from Georgia) started and became a champion of the poppy campaign in North America. Her poem ("We Shall Keep the Faith") in 1918 and many others were considered replies to the poem "In Flanders Field" written by Major John McCrae of the Canadian Army Medical Corps who saw fierce fighting at the Second Battle of Ypres. Another such response to McCrae's poem was penned by R. W. Lilliard.

June 4 Family Reunion

This week, the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan will be busy. The Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be arriving — around 1,200 pastors and lay people. They will gather in Wesley Chapel to have worship services and business meetings. They will set up displays in the gym to show all about projects and ministries they are doing all year. The organ will play at full blast and, if tradition repeats itself once again, there will be more than 1,000 voices singing “O, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing." They will eat barbecue, ice cream, and have music out on campus.

They will have a homecoming. It is a like a huge family reunion!

This will be the 63rd consecutive year that they have done this. It seems like it has always been this way. For many of us it HAS always been this way in our lifetime, but before 1955 it had only happened 8 times! 1856, 1884, 1895, 1898, 1911, 1913, 1926, 1953. But from 1955 to present, they have been here every year.

Since they actually founded the college in 1890, this makes a lot of sense. It took a lot of hard work and meetings, and planning, and fundraising for that to happen.

It is funny, though, that the college students who live here the rest of the year can hardly imagine this happening on “their” campus. They are never here during this event. Likewise, the conference people rarely see the students trudging through the snow on the way to class, or studying in the library. It is like two separate groups, yet their stories are closely intertwined.

1953 year must have been an interesting exception. That year, the Pharos tells us that Commencement, Alumni Activities, Dedication of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, and Conference all happened in the same week*!!!!*

Annual Spring Commencement Activities 24-27

Following is the schedule of activities which will occur on campus in celebration of the sixty-third annual Spring Commencement, May 24-27.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:30 FOURTH ANNUAL BENZENE RING REUNION BREAKFAST —Gym

10:30 ACADEMIC PROCESSION FORMS—Agnes Howard Hall

11:00 BACCALAUREATE SERVICE—Dr. W. J. Scarborough

3:00 PRESIDENT AND MRS. SCARBOROUGH'S RECEPTION HONORING SENIORS—126 Pocahontas Street

MONDAY, MAY 25

1:00 ALUMNI COUNCIL MEETING—Student Union Building

1:30 SPRING MEETING—BOARD OF TRUSTEES—Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library

3:00 CLASS REUNIONS

4:00 ALUMNI RECEPTION IN HONOR OF SENIORS—Agnes Howard Hall

6:00 ALUMNI DINNER—College Gym—Address by Dr. Forrest Stemple, '03—**No advance reservations needed!**

TUESDAY, MAY 26

10:00 ASSEMBLE FOR ACADEMIC PROCESSION

10:30 63RD ANNUAL SPRING COMMENCEMENT — Bishop Fred Pierce Corson will deliver the address.

12:00 NOON LUNCHEON—College gym

1:30 ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

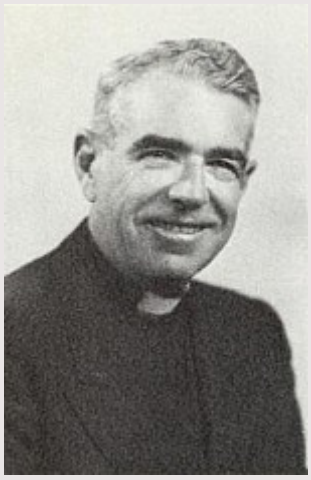
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

2:00 CONVENING OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—Atkinson Chapel — Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke presiding

4:00 DEDICATION OF THE ANNIE MERNER PFEIFFER LIBRARY—Address by Bishop Fred Pierce Corson

THURSDAY, MAY 28

4:00 DEDICATION OF UNION OF METHODISM. PLAQUE—Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library—Address by Bishop James H. Straughn



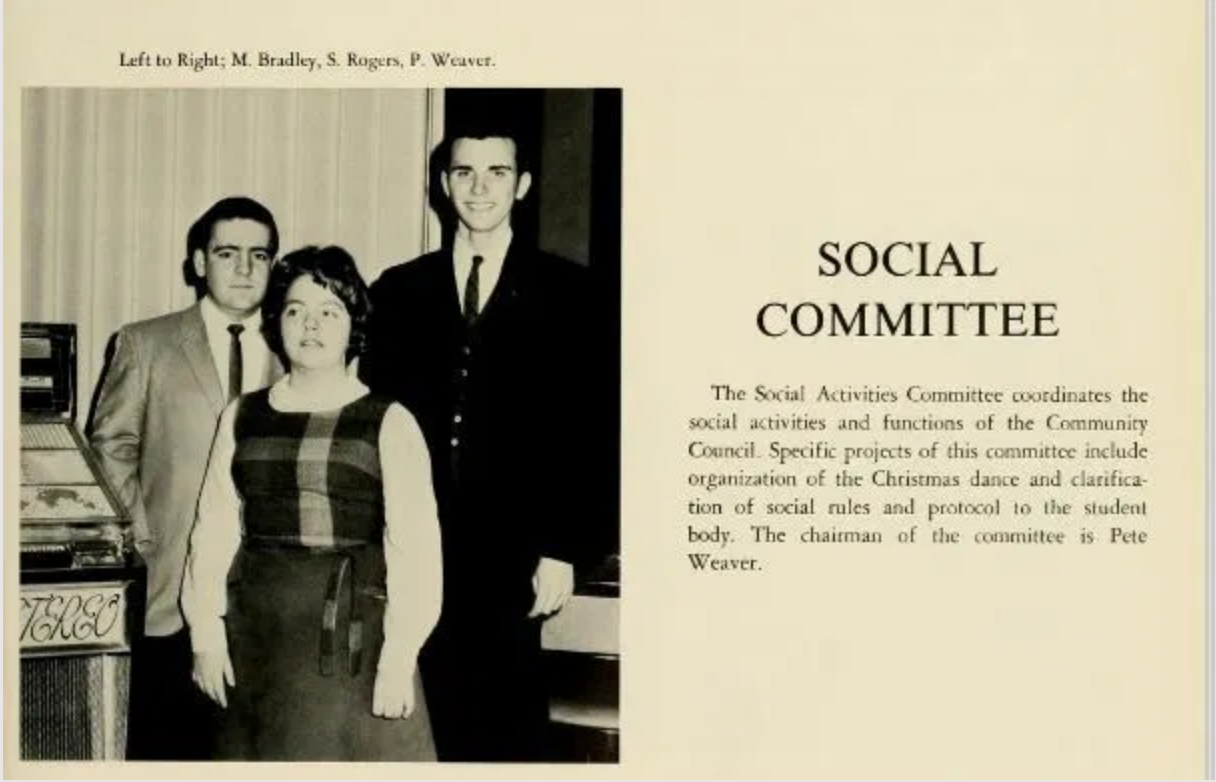
Bishop Fred Pierce Corson

In his speech that week on May 27th, at the dedication of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson said, ***"First we build our buildings, and then they build us."*** This has proven very true in the case of the conference and the college.The conference built buildings, then the buildings (and the people who taught in them) built leaders. Many of those leaders throughout the years were also very active in the conference.

June 11 Legacies

Sometimes You Really Can Come Home Again

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Bishop the Rev. Peter D. Weaver. He was reflecting on his time at West Virginia Wesleyan and how it had prepared him for his life's work.



Left to Right; M. Bradley, S. Rogers, P. Weaver.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Activities Committee coordinates the social activities and functions of the Community Council. Specific projects of this committee include organization of the Christmas dance and clarification of social rules and protocol to the student body. The chairman of the committee is Pete Weaver.

Coming to Buckhannon

Pete Weaver was about 10 years old when his father, a United Methodist minister, was assigned to the Emory Methodist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A member of that congregation was Michael Late Benedum, native of Bridgeport, WV, who had amassed a fortune in the oil and gas industry. In spite of the large mansion and all of the trappings of a rich man, Weaver's impression of Mr. Benedum was that of Christian humility.

Bridgeport United Methodist Church

The choir from Emory would go to Bridgeport and sing at Mr. Benedum's home church each year, and when the time came for Pete to attend college, Mr. Benedum encouraged him to seek out a Methodist college. After visiting a few, he came to Buckhannon and immediately felt at home here among the beautiful campus and friendly people.

Values Taught, Learned, and Lived

He arrived as a freshman in 1962, and had the opportunity to learn from such Wesleyan Giants as Ralph C. Brown, Sidney Davis, and Jose Franquiz. These men taught him Bible, Religion, Philosophy. All three of these had earned the Doctor of Sacred Theology degree from Boston University. President Stanley H. Martin and Dean Orlo Strunk, Jr. had also earned that degree from Boston University. Boston University's program emphasized Social Justice, Mission, Ecumenical work, Counseling, and Ethics. These emphases are evident at West Virginia Wesleyan to this day — perhaps still echoing the legacy of these men and others. Brown (1915), Davis (1936), and Strunk (1953) were also graduates of WVWC.

Ralph C. Brown

Sidney Thomas Davis

Jose Franquiz

Orlo Strunk, Jr.

Many other faculty members from Bible, Christian Education, History, Sociology, Psychology, and Religion were graduates of other theological schools as well, including: Garrett-Evangelical, Iliff, Lutheran, Wesley, Western, and Yale Divinity School.

At the time these Graduate Theological Seminaries were emphasizing religious themes taught from the perspective of Love, Justice, and Hope. Also, these schools understood the realities of poverty and injustice which could be seen all throughout the world in various contexts.

In particular, Bishop Pete Weaver especially remembers the impact that Wesleyan Professor Dr. Herb Coston had on his life, in a class titled "Fundamental Social Problems." This was a course that was required of all freshmen. Read the course description here.

Other things kept Pete busy at Wesleyan as well, including writing for the Pharos, acting in plays, Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity, and serving on the Program Board for the new Benedum Campus Community Center.

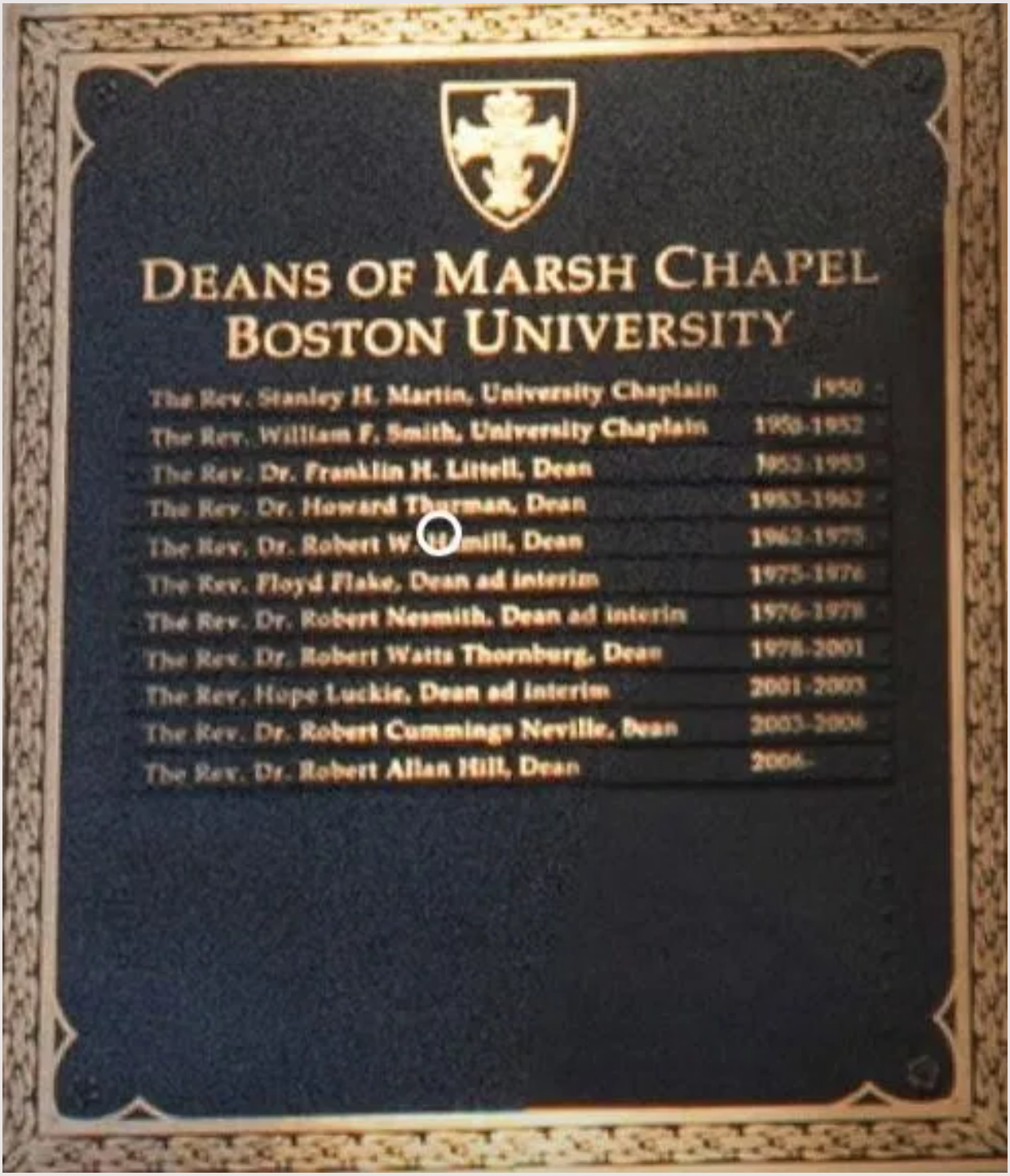
College is always a formative time for students, and Peter Weaver was here at a very formative time for the college as well. Even as he was learning to struggle with the many social issues of the 1960s from faculty members who challenged and supported him, the college itself was being transformed.

The Stanley H. Martin era was one of incredible change and growth. New buildings included:

- 1958 McCuskey Hall
- 1959 Jenkins Hall
- 1962 Doney Hall
- 1963 Benedum Campus Community Center
- 1963 Holloway Hall
- 1964 Paul G. Benedum Hall
- 1967 Christopher Hall of Science
- 1967 Wesley Chapel and Martin Religious Center
- 1972 Middleton Hall
- 1972/1973 Wraparound addition to the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library

After graduating from West Virginia Wesleyan in 1966, Peter earned his Masters of Divinity at Drew University and then followed in the footsteps of some of his mentor professors and went to Boston University to pursue the Doctor of Theology degree. He served churches for several years before being elected to be a Bishop in 1996 serving as Bishop in Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware conferences. From 2004-2006 he served as the President of the Council of Bishops.

In 2004, Peter Weaver was appointed to the New England Conference. As he was sitting in Boston University's Marsh Chapel in that role, he looked up and saw the plaque bearing the name of none other than Stanley H. Martin. The chapel was dedicated in 1950.


DEANS OF MARSH CHAPEL
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
The Rev. Stanley H. Martin, University Chaplain 1950
The Rev. William F. Smith, University Chaplain 1950-1952
The Rev. Dr. Franklin H. Littell, Dean 1953-1953
The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, Dean 1953-1962
The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Hamill, Dean 1962-1975
The Rev. Floyd Flake, Dean ad interim 1975-1976
The Rev. Dr. Robert Nesmith, Dean ad interim 1976-1978
The Rev. Dr. Robert Watts Thornburg, Dean 1978-2001
The Rev. Hope Luckie, Dean ad interim 2001-2003
The Rev. Dr. Robert Cummings Neville, Dean 2003-2006
The Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean 2006-

Peter Weaver gave the opening sermon for the West Virginia Annual Conference worship service in Wesley Chapel. On Sunday, he assisted West Virginia's Resident Bishop, Sandra Steiner Ball, in the ordination service for new clergy. He was home again on this campus which had so helped to build him even as Stanley Martin was building the campus.

I have to believe that Michael Benedum, Ralph C. Brown, Herb Coston, Jose Franquiz, Stanley Martin, Orlo Strunk, Jr., and all the rest, must be pleased.

June 18 The College Seal

Carved by Wolfgang Flor, as commissioned bythe Class of 1964,
this seal hangs in the Social Hall of the Benedum Campus Community Center

Majority of this week's post was written by Robert James (Jim) Stansbury in 1964. Click on his name to read more about him.

Jim Stansbury (Photo by Howard Hiner)

Jim, the son of Harry A. Stansbury and Ada George Stansbury, held multiple positions at WVWC from 1954-1970

- Director of Alumni Affairs 1954-1961
- Assistant to the President (Stanley H. Martin) 1961-1963
- Director of the Campus Center and Campus Coordinator 1963-1970

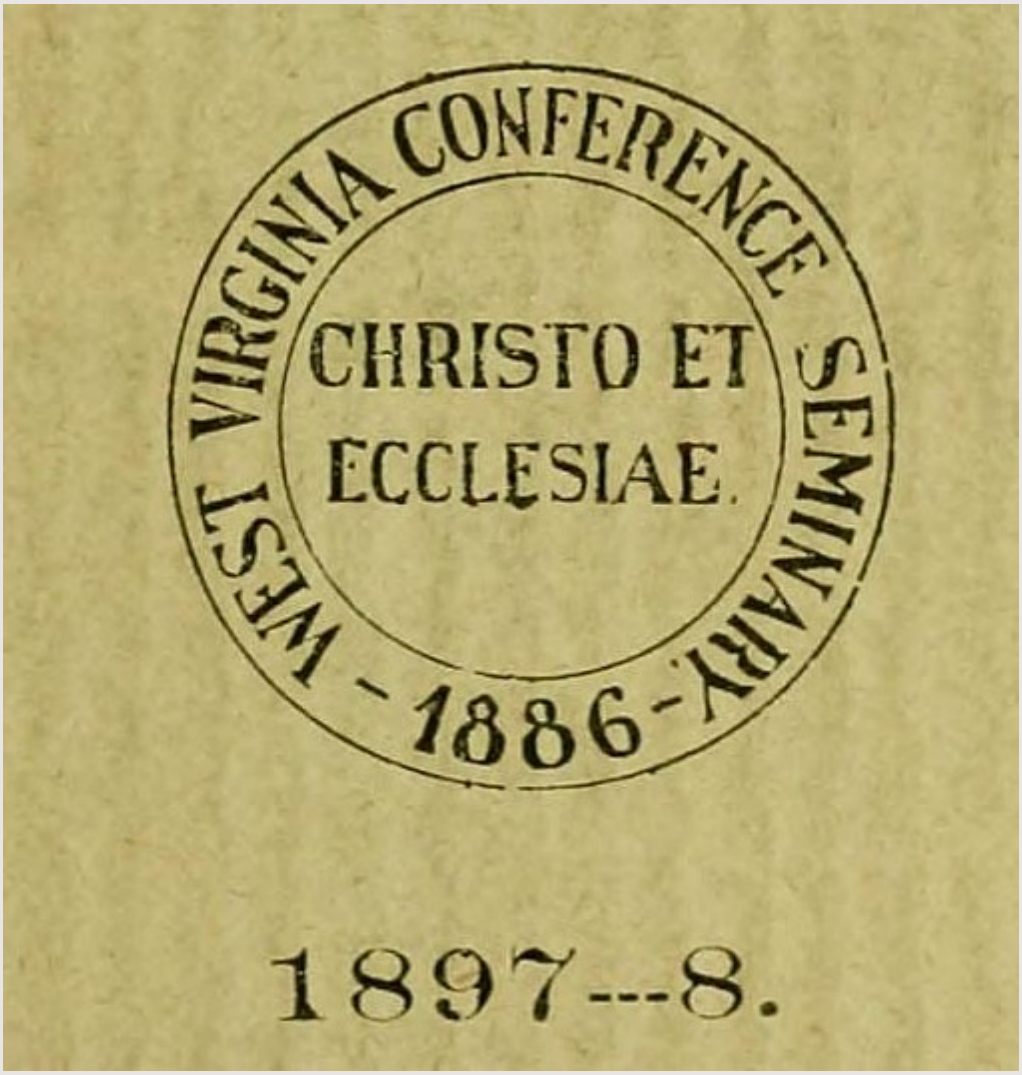
On May 30, 1964, Jim Stansbury wrote about the Wesleyan Seal which hangs in the Social Hall of the Benedum Campus Center. The class of 1964 had presented the seal as their class gift that year. This seal was carved by local sculptor Wolfgang Flor.

The Wesleyan Seal

Jim Stansbury writes:

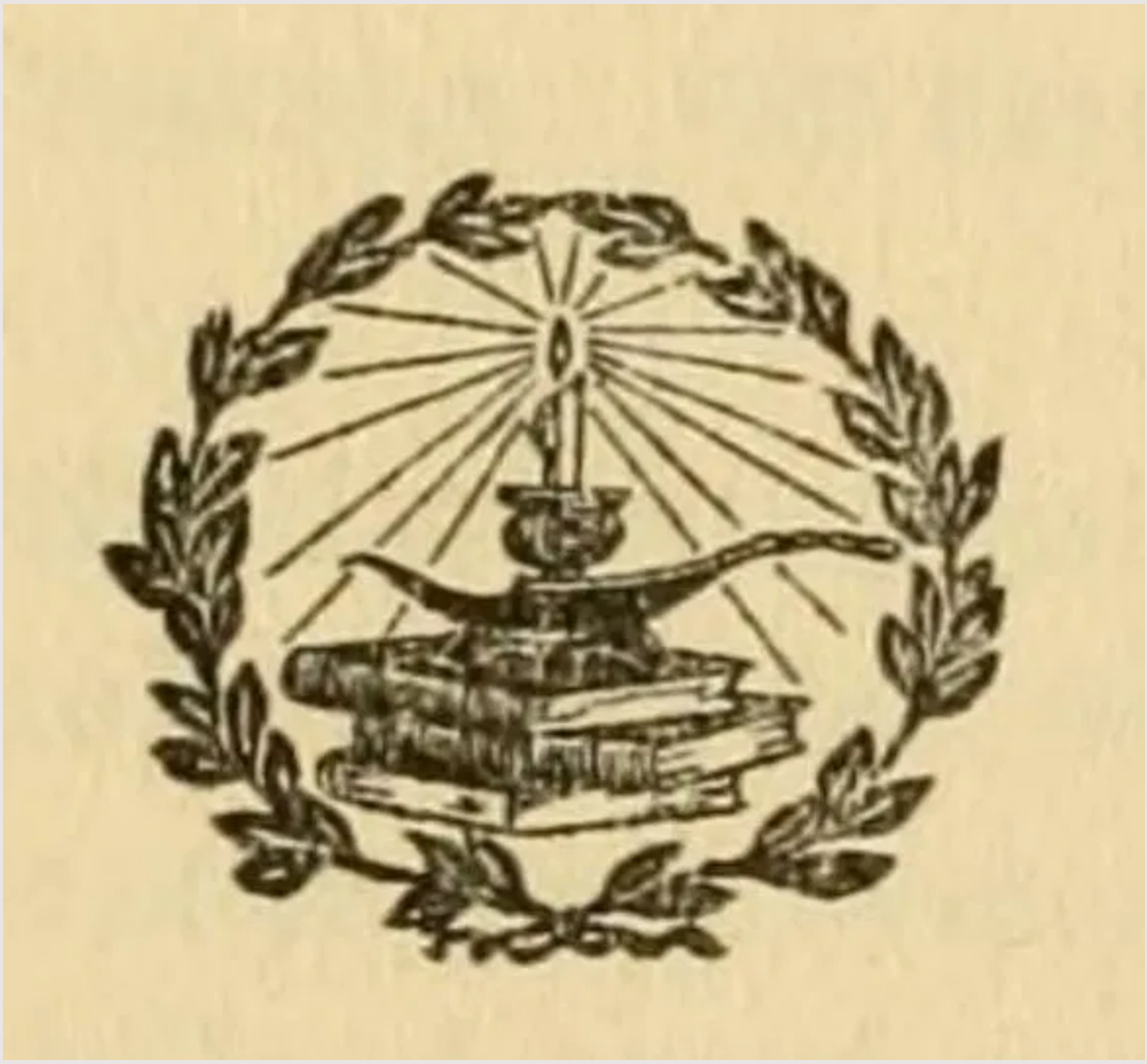
The annual catalogs of the College and Seminary afford the only record of the beginnings of the present seal. A search of the minutes of the Board of Trustees has revealed no mention of any official seal.

The rudimentary evidence of a seal is found in the 1897-98 catalog of the old Seminary; this plain emblem had two concentric circles with "CHRISTO ET ECCLESIAE" in the center and "WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE SEMINARY" between the circles. At the bottom was "1886," the year of incorporation. This appeared twice more, in 1898-99 and in 1899-1900.



West Virginia Conference Seminary 1897-98

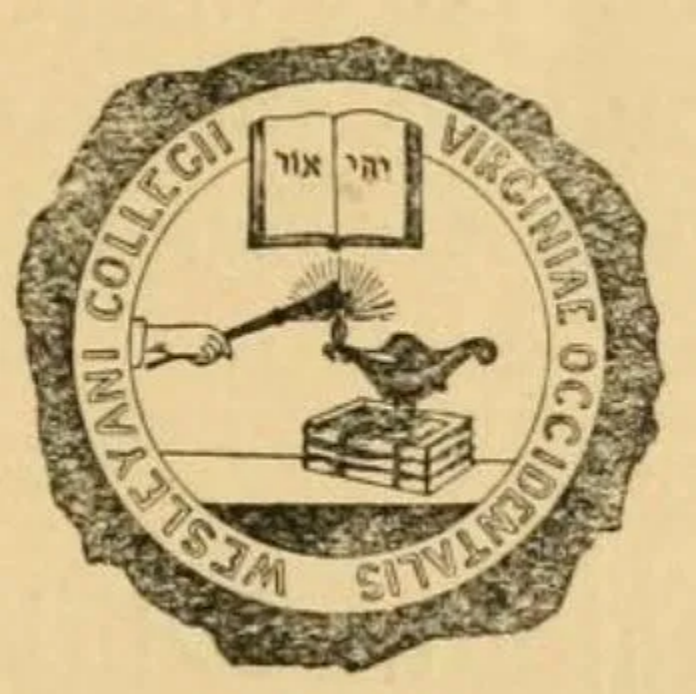
The first few College catalogs, beginning in 1903-04, contain no seals or emblems. President John Wier had endowed the school with the name, "The Wesleyan University of West Virginia" in 1903-04; in 1906 the Trustees changed the name to the present one. This name appears on the covers of the 1906 and 1907 issues, while the discarded name appears on the inside. The search for a seal at this time may have been an effort to make certain that the new name would be permanent.



Catalog 1906-07

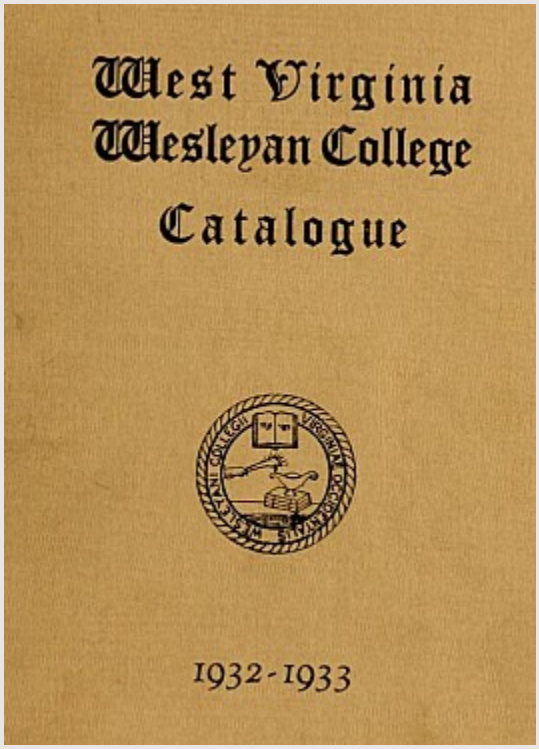
Another emblem was used in 1907-08. It contains some of the basic elements of the present seal: three books, a candle holder, a candle giving forth light. A circle of leaves perhaps reflected the affection held for the Oak Grove.

The 1908-09 issue has on its cover the first rendition of the present seal. It was used in 1909-10 on both cover and frontispiece.



Catalog 1908-1909

In 1932-33 it shed its scalloped edge and was decorated with piping on the circumference. This version has been used almost continuously since then.



1932-1933 Catalog

The bas relief of the seal presented today is, in several ways, an interpretation by Mr. Flor. Changes in the original have been made over the years; such as the number of books (sometimes one or two), the design of the torch and lamp, a right or left and, and alterations in the Hebrew characters. Mr. Flor has gone back to the original seal and even consulted with Hebrew scholars to insure accuracy. Native Upshur County walnut was selected for stock, in part to harmonize with furnishings in the room.

The outer circumference has the suggestion of a scalloped edge like the traditional seal. The rough treatment of the wood is intended to convey the emerging of the seal from elementary beginnings to its present form. In keeping with this, the year of the institution's founding, 1890, appears at the bottom, flanked by two oak leaves, symbolic of he first College seal and of the Oak Grove.

The seal itself is encircled by the more recent piping bordering the Latin name. The open book, representing "The Book of Books" proclaims, "Let there be Light" in Hebrew characters. The ancient oil vessel burns on as the student, clothed in academic garb, holds his torch of learning, receiving light from the lamp of knowledge.

The thoughtfulness of the Class of 1964 will make possible the continuing awareness of the purpose of Wesleyan. Mr. Flor has carved an inspiring symbol, which will be an enduring reminder of a noble past and a guide to a promising future.

James Stansbury, May 30, 1964

The college seal appears on official documents, catalogs, and on campus signage. It has also been carved into a podium by Bobby Hawkins, Physical Plant employee from 1978-2013.

June 25 Cloud of Witnesses

WVWC Faculty and Student Body in 1928

I spend a good bit of time reading about the people who have taught at West Virginia Wesleyan College here through the years. Occasionally I come across photographs of these people in places that are very familiar to me!

WVWC FACULTY MEMBERS, 1954-55

First row, l. to r.: Miss Janet Guess, music; Mrs. Esther McAllester, home economics; Mrs. Juanita Parker, secretarial studies; Dr. Ralph Brown, Bible; Dr. A. A. Schoolcraft, Dean; Dr. William Scarborough, President; Dr. Lewis H. Chrisman, English; Dr. James L. Hupp, education; Prof. John D. Shaver, speech; Miss Mary C. Brill, English.
Second row, l. to r.: Dr. C. Buell Agey, music; Miss Nellie Wilson, Dean of Women; Prof. E. Kidd Lockard, economics; Dr. Jose Franquiz, philosophy; Dr. Florence W. Schaper, sociology; Dr. George L. Glauner, history; Dr. Samuel Small, English; Prof. Robert E. Shafer, music; Miss Faye Followell, library science; Prof. Sidney T. Davis, religious education.
Third row, l. to r.: Miss Charlotte Knepshield, physical education; Prof. David Reemsnyder, physical education; Prof. Fred Messersmith, art; Dr. J. E. Judson, biology; Dr. Arthur B. Gould, chemistry and physical science; Prof. William A. Hallam, mathematics; "Hank" Ellis, physical education; Dr. James C. Bay, education; Miss Joan Brown, music.
Absent when picture was taken: Dr. Nicholas Hyma, chemistry; Dr. Lewis Clark, business; Prof. Hayward A. Williams, business; Dr. Marvin Downey, political science, (on leave); Dr. George Rossbach, biology, (on leave); Prof. Donald Flynn, religious education.

WVWC Faculty 1954-55

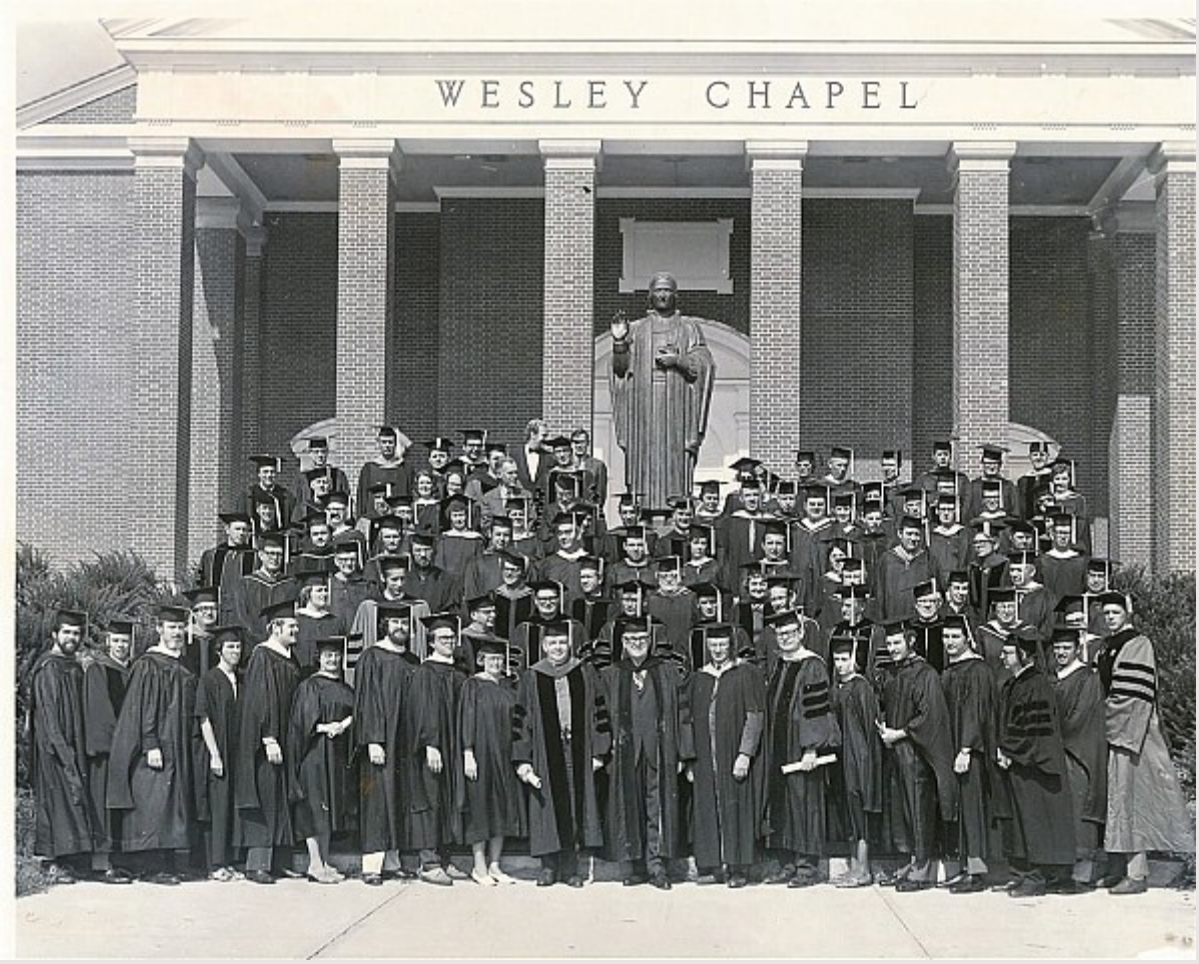
The 1954-1955 faculty is seen here in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library where I spent so much of my time. As a Library Science student, many of my classes were there as well as my work-study. Having worked in this building as a professional librarian from 2001-2017, it is safe to say that I know this building very well. To see a photograph of people with Dr. Ralph Brown, President Scarborough, Professor David Reemsnyder, and Professor Nellie Wilson sitting in that space is quite fascinating for me.

Faculty of WVWC ca Late 1950s

This group of people has always been of the highest academic stock, as a look at any of the college catalogs can attest. Here is the catalog for this particular year as an example. They have taught thousands of students and provided guidance and helped to shape the college as well as those students. They have served on countless committees, developed many new programs, and advised student groups of all kinds. They have hosted students in their homes and taken them on trips that have opened the world. Their teaching was not all done in a classroom.

Faculty in Atkinson Chapel, 1958

President Stanley H. Martin poses on the front steps
of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library with the faculty in the early 1960s



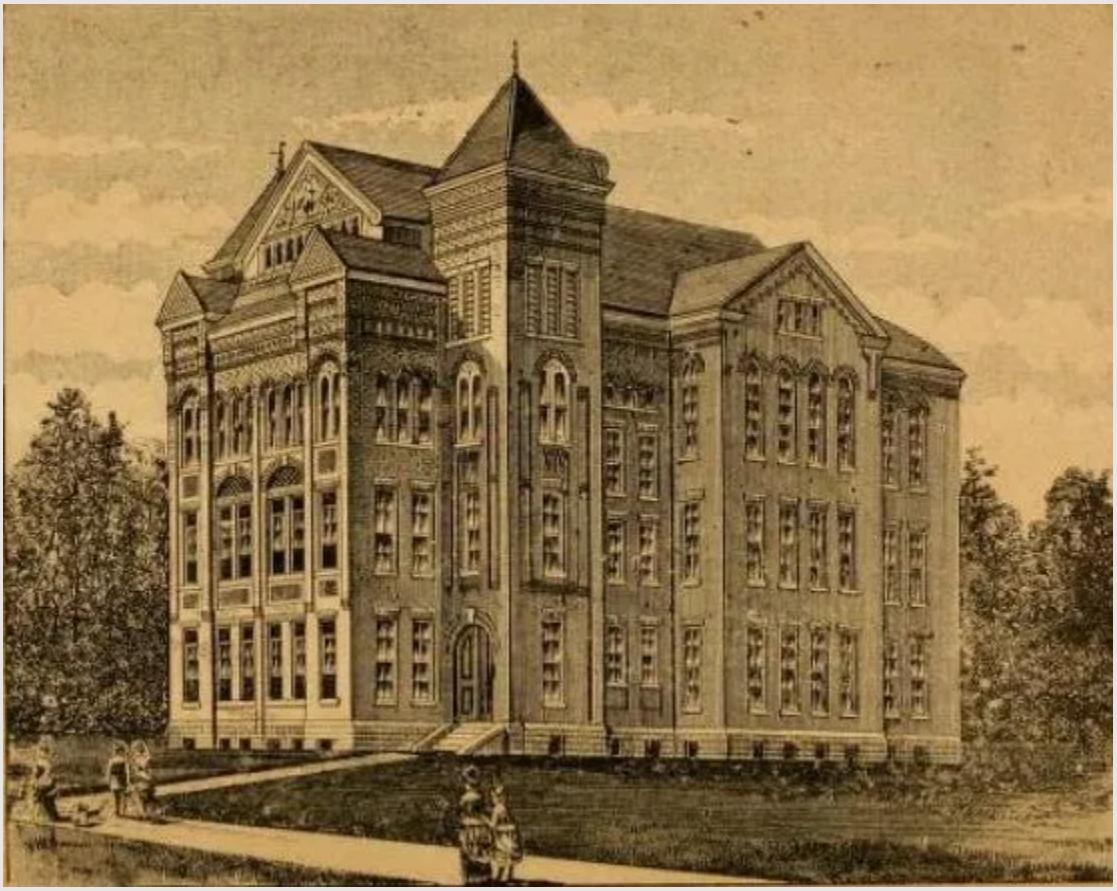
1971 photograph of Faculty in front of John Wesley.
Many of these played a major role in my education

Faculty Procession ca mid-late 1970s

Time marches on.
But the work that they did is not just a thing of the past.
It lives on in the hearts, minds, and memories of their students.
And, sometimes, if you listen closely, they still have much to teach us.

A Cloud of Witnesses indeed

July 2 Stories That Surprise



Drawing of Seminary Building in 1890 Catalog

Numerous times I have taught a course in WVWC History. Students learn about the buildings on campus: when they were built, who built them, who helped to fund them, who are they named for, and more. They learn about some of the Giants and the work that they did. Also, they learn that some of the people we see every day now are actually doing things worthy of the title of Giant. Sometimes, as students turn in their assignments, they express things like, “Mind. Blown.” Sometimes they say things like, “I am so proud of MY SCHOOL!”

The more they learn about the past of WVWC, the more they tend to appreciate it in the present. They feel connected and grounded in this community.

Often ALL of us are surprised by what we find out. Here is but one example.

Wesleyan Student Marries Princess

James E. Hyre, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin I. Hyre of French Creek, marries Princess F. Shamsi Adham, of the Royal Family of Iran, Persia, in New York City, January 15.

Princess Shamsi received the greater portion of her education in Paris, France. She studied languages and has a degree for Sage-femme et Puericulture.

The Royal Family flew to New York in December 1944, and Princess Shamsi enrolled at Columbia University.

Princess Shamsi is the granddaughter of His excellency KaKimed Dovish of Iran, whose ancestor was known as Adham and his son, Ehrahim Adham, was ruler of Jhaznain, in the 7th century A. D. Her mother, SaKinch Hadjeb Kadjar Davalion, daughter of Kadjar Doovieh, is a descendant of the Kadjar Dynasty (19th century).

Mrs. Hyre's uncle, H. Hadjeb K. Dobollou, is foreign representative of Iran to the United States and resides at the Iranian Embassy in Washington D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyre are presently residing at Tennerton, and Mr. Hyre is a student at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

The following is a portion of the column written by Walter Winshell in the Jan. 28 issue of the Daily Mirrow concerning the Hyres.

"Princess Shamsi Adham became Mrs. James E. Hyre. She is a student at Columbia University . . . . Her kin are the wealthiest in Teheran (Iran) . . . Her uncle is Iran's Mr. Big in Washington. . . . ."

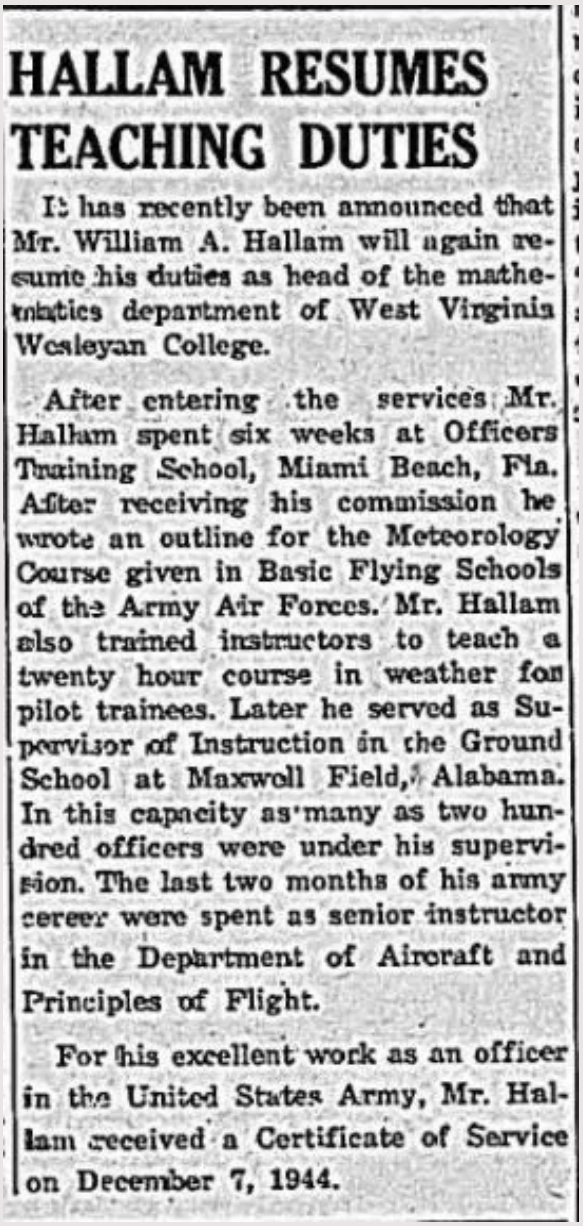
When asked what she thought of Upshur County, Princess Shamsi described it as very nice, composed of kind, friendly people." She added that she liked it much better than New York because of the friendliness and beautiful scenery.

Pharos, 1946-05-09

Of course, stories like this one lead to more questions such as, where did they meet? What happened later? Her kin being the wealthiest in Tehran, it must have been an interesting time for her to be living here!

Editor's Note: Apparently they met while both were students here. James graduated with the class of 1962 and Shamsi in 1963. Although she was a very successful business woman in the area of Real Estate, she was also a widely regarded linguist (spoke five languages) and had medical training. They both worked at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. He was 82 and she was 75 when they both drowned in their home during Hurricane Katrina. Sun Herald, July 8, 2015; and updated January 13, 2016

Here is another surprising story:



HALLAM RESUMES TEACHING DUTIES

It has recently been announced that Mr. William A. Hallam will again resume his duties as head of the mathematics department of West Virginia Wesleyan College.

After entering the services Mr. Hallam spent six weeks at Officers Training School, Miami Beach, Fla. After receiving his commission he wrote an outline for the Meteorology Course given in Basic Flying Schools of the Army Air Forces. Mr. Hallam also trained instructors to teach a twenty hour course in weather for pilot trainees. Later he served as Supervisor of Instruction in the Ground School at Maxwell Field, Alabama. In this capacity as many as two hundred officers were under his supervision. The last two months of his army career were spent as senior instructor in the Department of Aircraft and Principles of Flight.

For his excellent work as an officer in the United States Army, Mr. Hallam received a Certificate of Service on December 7, 1944.

Pharos 1945-03-15

I was stunned. Although I had long heard about Professor Hallam, who began teaching here in 1928, and I knew he taught Mathematics here until he retired in 1973, this was news to me! Never had I heard that there was a time that he spent 27 months preparing pilots who would be deployed in World War II. This article was right next to one reporting the death of a student who had been here for two years before being called into the service. His name was William Watts, and he was from Durbin, West Virginia and was killed in action on January 23, 1945. Read more about him here.

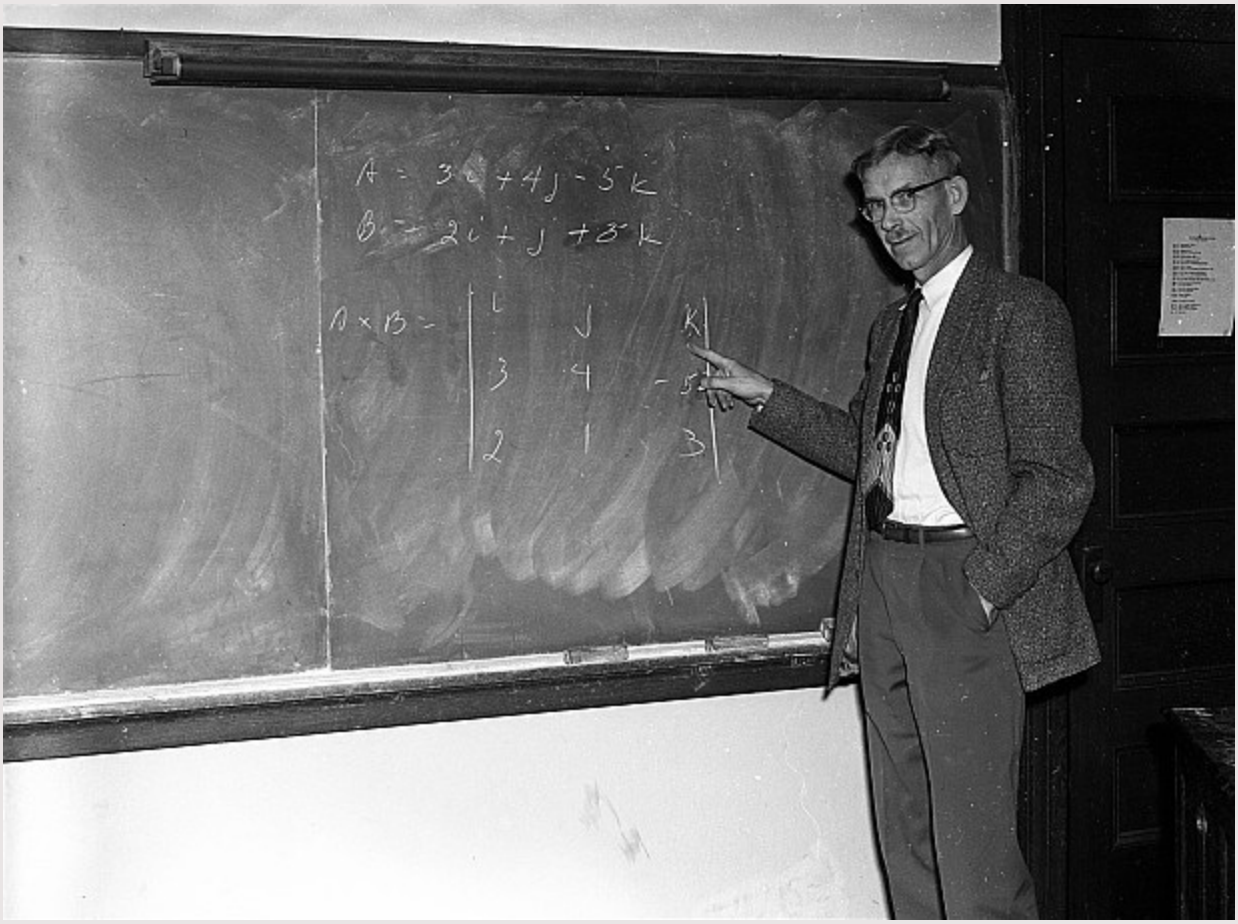


Photo of William Hallam, by Howard Hiner

Personal Connections, Personal Stories that Surprise

During one semester, one of my students let me know that she was a direct descendant of Agnes Howard's sister. Meanwhile, another found Letters to the Editor in the 1960s Pharos which his grandfather had written concerning the draft during the Viet Nam war — and letters written in response. And still yet another student found photographs of her grandmother being crowned May Queen. **Stories that surprise!**

July 9 Digging Deeper

Getting to The Rest of the Story

On May 12, 1991 an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters was presented to Joyce Garrett. I have been looking through the lists of these degree recipients and gathering the information about them.

Examples

- 1990 – Lawi Imathiu, Edwin L.D. Dils, Thomas Conlin, James T. Laney
- 1991 – Joyce Garrett, James W. Rowley, Ernest L. Boyer
- 1992 – Robert C. Byrd, George H. Dixon, Chi Kil Kim

Each and every one of these people is impressive and deserving of such an honor. And this is but a sliver of the whole list. The whole list encompasses decades and decades full of names.

The stories behind them mean so much! It is these stories that inspire me to keep digging deeper. It is these stories that makes the lists interesting and exciting.

Joyce Garrett is just one great example of this. Joyce Garrett has been a force for music and for the transformation of lives for decades. In fact, her motto is: “Choir is a tool for transforming lives”

In 1988, just three years before receiving her Honorary Doctorate at West Virginia Wesleyan, Joyce Garrett was invited to bring her choir to the International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria – the first all-African-American choir ever to be invited.

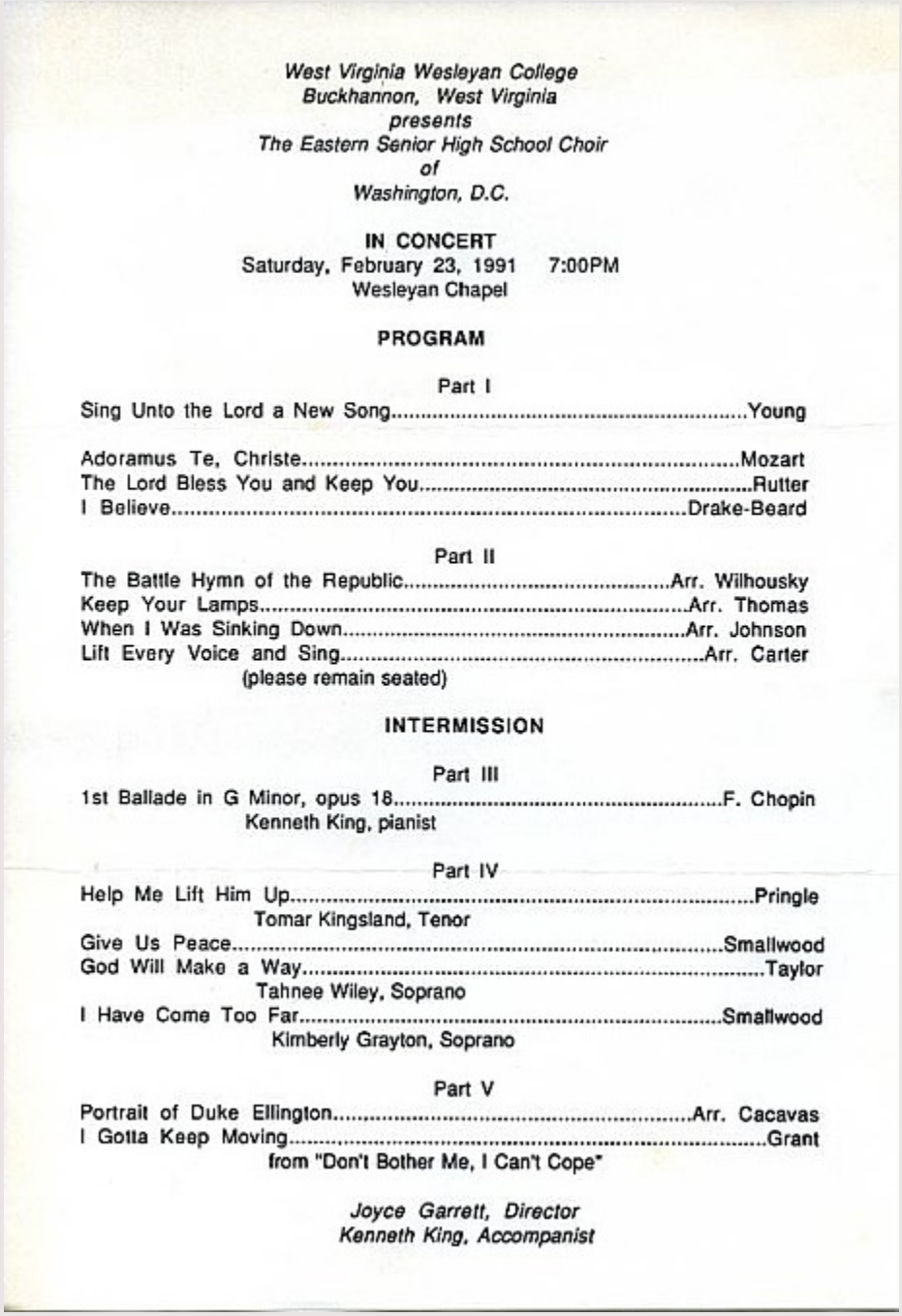
Against all odds, they were able to raise $160,000 to make the trip. Against all odds, the 54 students (only two of whom knew how to read music) were able to learn difficult classical music which had to be sung in German. Against all odds, they won second place behind the Latymer School from London (which was founded in 1624). That year, they didn't even award a third place trophy because there was such a large gap between the top two groups and the scores of the next one.

In an article in the Washington Post, John Kelly referred to the 1988 group as, "*Rocky* meets *Pitch Perfect* with a bit of *Stand By Me* thrown in.

There is a video of that group singing the music from that competition in Vienna and later being congratulated by President Ronald Reagan at the White House on August 1, 1988. President Reagan praised the choir, saying:

"Your talent is manifest. Your brilliant performance in Europe was an inspiration to all of us. I don't need to tell you about the kind of world-class competition you were up against or the fact that a good many of your competitors had plenty more resources behind them that you did, but you did have advantages. First, your talent. Second, your commitment and determination. You practiced endlessly, sometimes in Latin or German, and you raised the money for the trip yourselves. Third, the wonderful people behind you, and here I mean your parents, families, and friends. And most of all you had a secret weapon whose name was Joyce Garrett."

The choir also presented a concert in Wesley Chapel on Feburary 23, 1991.



West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, West Virginia
presents
The Eastern Senior High School Choir
of
Washington, D.C.

IN CONCERT
Saturday, February 23, 1991 7:00PM
Wesleyan Chapel

PROGRAM

Part I

Sing Unto the Lord a New Song.....Young

Adoramus Te, Christe.....Mozart
The Lord Bless You and Keep You.....Rutter
I Believe.....Drake-Beard

Part II

The Battle Hymn of the Republic.....Arr. Wilhousky
Keep Your Lamps.....Arr. Thomas
When I Was Sinking Down.....Arr. Johnson
Lift Every Voice and Sing.....Arr. Carter
(please remain seated)

INTERMISSION

Part III

1st Ballade in G Minor, opus 18.....F. Chopin
Kenneth King, pianist

Part IV

Help Me Lift Him Up.....Pringle
Tomar Kingsland, Tenor
Give Us Peace.....Smallwood
God Will Make a Way.....Taylor
Tahnee Wiley, Soprano
I Have Come Too Far.....Smallwood
Kimberly Grayton, Soprano

Part V

Portrait of Duke Ellington.....Arr. Cacavas
I Gotta Keep Moving.....Grant
from "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope"

Joyce Garrett, Director
Kenneth King, Accompanist

February 23, 1991

Through the years, Joyce also created scholarship opportunities for her students, and many of them have taken the life lessons, determination, and confidence they gained to go to college and make a difference in the world. Generations of choir members.

Having just “discovered” this amazing lady this week, I found that the choir was having a 30th Anniversary Concert on July 7. Several of WVWC’s Alumni were gathered to celebrate the event.

WVWC Black Alumni Gathering in the D.C. Area
(nearly all are from Eastern High School and sang in Joyce Garret’s choir)

July 16 Meet You at the Sundial

Before the days when students gathered and met their friends at the statue of John Wesley in front of Wesley Chapel, there was a time when that meeting point was the sundial in front of the Administration Building. Generations of students have paused there. Seniors pass by it as they line up for the long march down the campus sidewalks to their Commencement. Some think of time as they pass.

The first sundial was purchased and installed in 1907 by William A. Haggerty. A graduate of the West Virginia Conference Seminary in 1897, Haggerty went on to Ohio Wesleyan University, Harvard University, and Boston University before being appointed by President Carl Doney as the first Dean of the College in 1907.

There is a photograph of the second sundial in *Our Home Among the Hills*, by Brett Miller. At the left of the picture is Dr. Thomas W. Haught who is regarded as a major figure in the making and the recording of WVWC History.

Thomas Haught with the second sundial

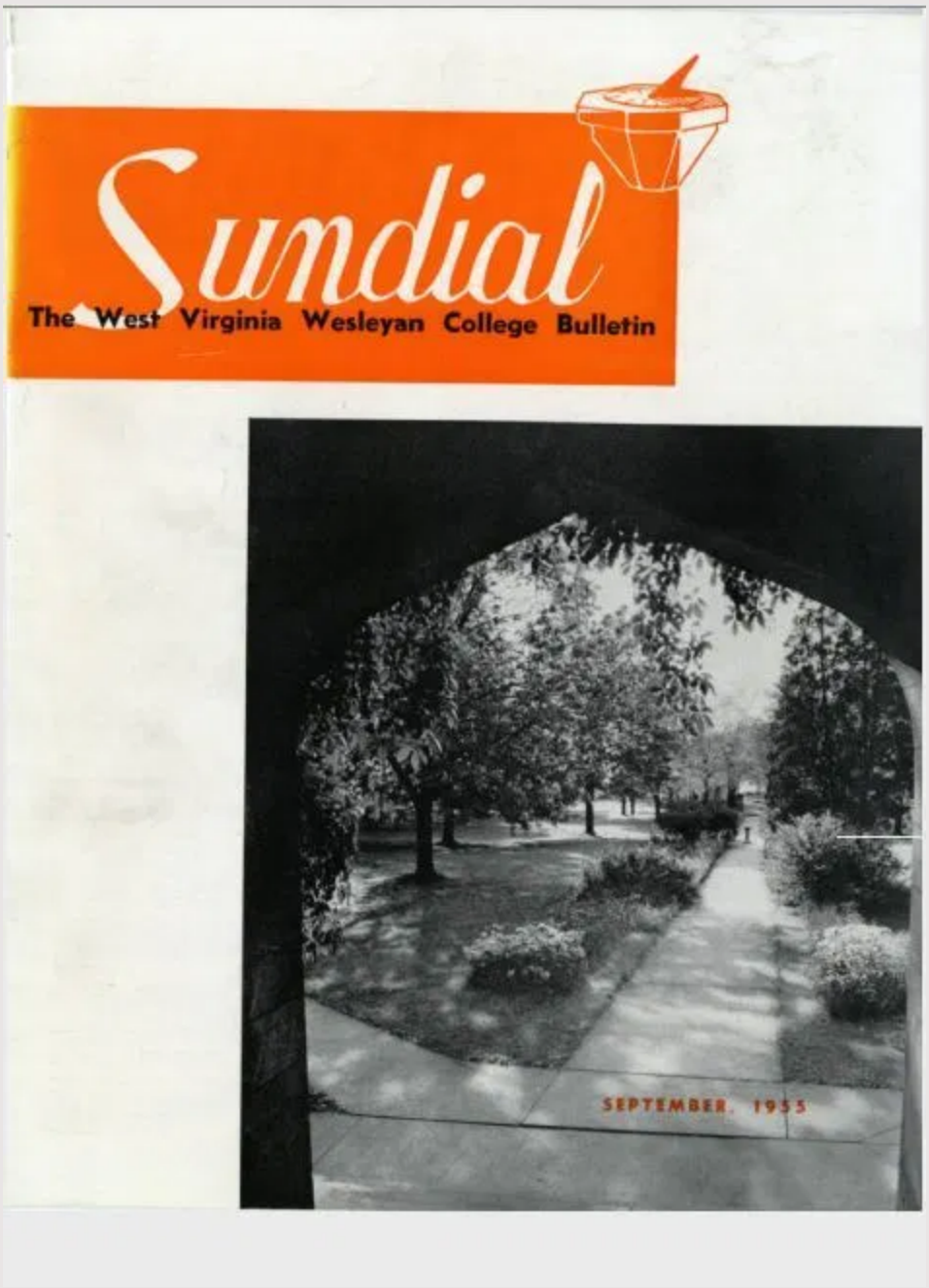
Alumni of West Virginia Wesleyan College have come to associate the word Sundial with the Alumni magazine that helps keep them informed about happenings at the college today — at this time.

What may come as a surprise, however, is that from May 1927 through May 1928 there was a column in the Pharos called The Sundial. This column was intended to be a place where students could write opinion pieces and make their thoughts known. For a time it did work that way until apathy set in and entries became less frequent. When that happened, the editorial staff had to fill that space. In 1930, a new editor and staff tried to revive it, but it didn't fare any better than it had done previously. Click here to see an example of this column from February 15, 1928.

The topics covered during the run of the Sundial column in the Pharos can tell us much about life here in days gone by. Indeed, reading about what was important to students in early days is almost like a time machine.

Among the topics included were:

- Fraternities and Sororities
- Popularity Contests
- The need for lockers in the Gym, Cloakrooms in Haymond Hall of Science, and the request for rocking chairs to replace the desks in the classrooms
- Freshman rules and traditions — which today we would call hazing
- Literary Societies
- Exams (pros and cons and the problem of cheating)
- Chapel (pros and cons and the problem of rude students and faculty absences)
- School Spirit and the need for building a community without cliques
- The Point System
- Are college professors human beings?
- World affairs



The first issue of the Alumni Magazine named The Sundial was September 1955. In it, Dr. Thomas Haught wrote a brief history of the Timeless Sundial

Upon the occasion of this first issue of SUNDIAL, former dean Thomas W. ("Tommy") Haught S'94, H'16, has prepared a brief account of the origin of this familiar campus edifice. His account follows:

"The story of the sundial on the college campus began in the early days of President Doney's administration, about mid-year 1907. One of the early improvements to get under way on the campus was the change-over from cinder to concrete walks.

"Dean WILLIAM A. HAGGERTY S'97, while a pastor in Baltimore, had found and secured a sundial having some historical aspects, which, if not a matter of record somewhere else, may now be lost. It was, perhaps, chiefly his interest in the matter that led to making the 'Circle' in the front walk and the mounting of the sundial at its center.

"The two essential parts of a sundial, in simple English, are the plate and the arm. Of these two the arm is more vulnerable. Sundial number one is gone, both plate and arm. Of sundial number two only the plate remains. It was sponsored several years ago by the Fred Brooks Garden Club in memory of one of the club's members who had given of his time, talent, labor and material to beautify the front walkway — the late Freme Rohrbough."

Sundial #4 is in place today, and was given as the Class Gift from the Class of 2003. Once again, the arm has gone missing. It has been said that this makes for a better conversation for young couples who pause there to discuss the mysteries of time.

Sundial, July 2018

July 23 Dreams of Dorothy Lee

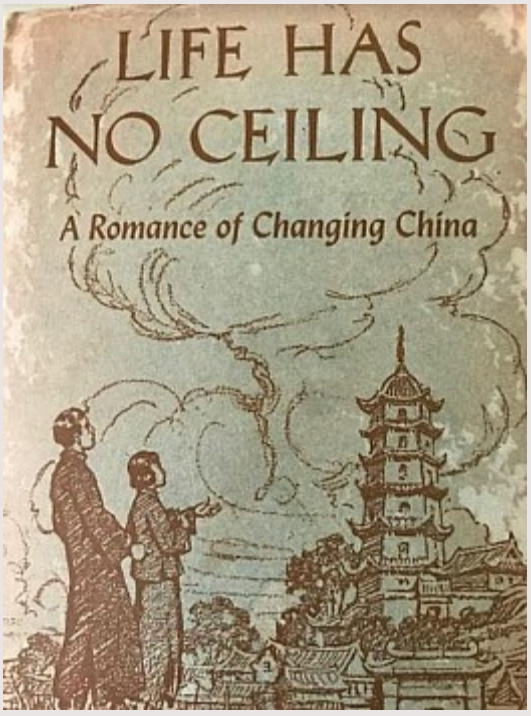
Once upon a time, in a land far far away, a baby girl named Daw-Say was born. Her father had died before her birth, and her mother was desperately disappointed that she did not turn out to be a son.

In another small village in the mountains in the Fukien province of China there was a small boy named Joo-mook. His family was living in poverty, and his parents both died by the time he was five years old.

Each of them encountered Christian Missionaries who changed their lives by making it possible for them to have an education and to come to the United States for more advanced studies. It was two chance encounters – one in Chicago and one in Moundsville, West Virginia – that brought the two together.

Each receieved new names in America.
He became James Cheng and she became Dorothy Lee.

The full stories of their early lives are written in a book called *Life Has No Ceiling*, by Dr. Frank T. Cutright. Although the book was written as fiction, all of the stories and details have been vouched for by both Dorothy and James and by major people in their lives.



1940, Friendship Press

This book includes a great story in the Prologue
which takes place in Agnes Howard Hall:

If I don't get a letter by tomorrow night, I am going to call Detroit by long distance and ask him what is the matter — and the charges will be reversed. I'll teach him to economize on postage stamps!

A group of amused and interested seniors gathered around Dorothy Lee, their Chinese classmate, as she made her spirited threat. The whole student body of West Virginia Wesleyan College had been enjoying their occasional glimpses of this developing Oriental romance. Many of them had seen photographs of the slender, sober-faced Chinese man who was now being threatened with mild revenge. Dorothy's naive descriptions of him and her comments about him had whetted their appetite for more intimate knowledge.

At supper time that night one of the girls asked, "Has your letter come from Detroit, Dorothy?"

"No, it hasn't," she replied indignantly, her usually merry face assuming sterner lines.

"Are you going to telephone him, then?"

"Why, of course. I said I would, didn't I?"

"We'll be listening in," threatened another senior gaily. "I wouldn't miss the dressing down you're going to give him for any amount of money!"

"Neither would I!" exclaimed a dozen voices, as the dean arose, signaling that it was time to leave the dining room.

Dorothy tried to escape her tormenters, but they escorted her relentlessly to the telephone booth, insisting that she must leave the door open for ventilation, and then settled themselves comfortably on the stairway outside to await the fun.

Dorothy, seeing that she could not shake off the laughing group, put in her number. She heard the calls along the way. "Long distance" "Route for Detroit, Michigan" "Thank you" "Pittsburgh calling Cleveland" "Thank you" each call punctuated by the buzz or click of connections made or broken. And at last the voice of the operator: "Here's you party. He says he will take the charges."

“Is that you, James?" she said, and at the sound of her voice the huddled girls crowded forward eagerly. They were about to hear the “dressing down.” Then, with a mischievous gleam in her eye, Dorothy went on, “James, I want to know–nu sie-noh-iong-go ci sioh la-bai mo sia pie gie nguai.” And the flow of Chinese was halted only when the operator told her that her three minutes were up! As she walked out of the booth with a demurely innocent face, her disappointed audience eyed her in chagrin.

“We might have known you would fool us,” one girl declared ruefully. “But, what did you tell him?”

Dorothy giggled at their discomfiture and disappeared up the stairs in tantalizing silence. And they never did find out what Miss Lee said to her fiance, Mr. Cheng.

The couple returned to China to fulfill their childhood dreams of teaching and of helping to reduce suffering among people there. James became a very influential physician – and at one point treated Chiang Kai-Shek, the leader of the Republic of China from 1928-1975. Dorothy and James were invited to his home with a small group of about 18 people to celebrate Chiang Kai-Shek's return from being held hostage during a regional uprising.

Mary Ellen (born in 1932), Thomas Clement (born in 1930), Julia B. (Born in 1928)

The Dorothy Lee Scholarship Fund for Overseas Students

As conditions grew difficult through the Japanese occupation of China and the Second World War, the Cheng family lost nearly everything. A group of people from West Virginia Wesleyan College and the West Virginia Methodist Conference Women's Society for Chrisitan Service went into action to help bring Julia B. (by then ready for college) to West Virginia Wesleyan. The group included such Giants as:

- Roy McCuskey (S1905, 1908, College President 1931-1941)
- Wallace B. Fleming (College President 1915-22; College Vice President 1938-44)
- Edna Jenkins (S1902; Trustee 1943-56)
- Lewis H. Chrisman (Faculty 1919-56)
- Dr. Thomas M. Zumbrunnen (1919; Trustee 1931-59)
- Julia Bonafield (the Missionary who had been the Champion for Dorothy)
- Mary Scott (at whose home Dorothy and James had started their courtship)
- and Dorothy's college friend Laura Rector Hedrick (1930 – who became Julia B.'s American Mother).

Julia B. 1946

Julia graduated *cum laude* from WVWC in May, 1950 and went on to receive her Master's degree in social work from Columbia University. She became a generous contributor to the Dorothy Lee Fund in order to help other students have the same opportunity that she had been given.

Dorothy and James

The dreams of Daw-Say and Joo-mook came true thanks to the Missionaries who were there when they were most needed, and to the love and generosity of caring Christians from far away. Their dreams were not for themselves, but rather to prepare themselves to help others.

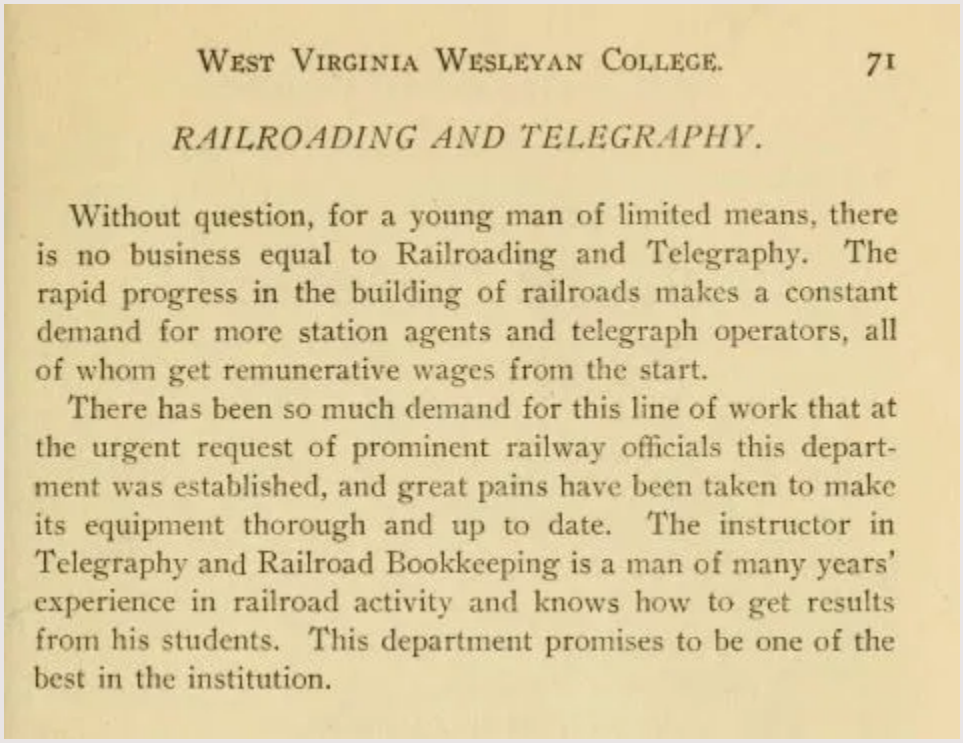
Many other students have benefitted from the Dorothy Lee Fund for Overseas Students since its beginning in 1946. Nearly 100 of them from countries all over the world.

July 30 Resourceful

New technologies provide opportunities. While some fear them or dismiss them, others embrace them and find ways to harness their potential. Some turn out to be life-changing. At West Virginia Wesleyan College, we have a history of embracing new ways to learn and to provide service.

Telegraphy and Railroading

If you had gone into the Administration Building between the years of 1906-08, for example, you might have encountered Harry Francis Brittingham setting up the equipment for his Railroading and Telegraphy class. H.F., as he was known, had worked with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as a clerk and a car distributor in this booming business of railroads. Someone at Wesleyan realized that there was a great need for educating people to work in this field. Maybe it was President John Wier or perhaps George W. Broyles, Principal of the School of Commerce. This was only five years after Marconi's groundbreaking wireless transmission across the Atlantic.



WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE. 71

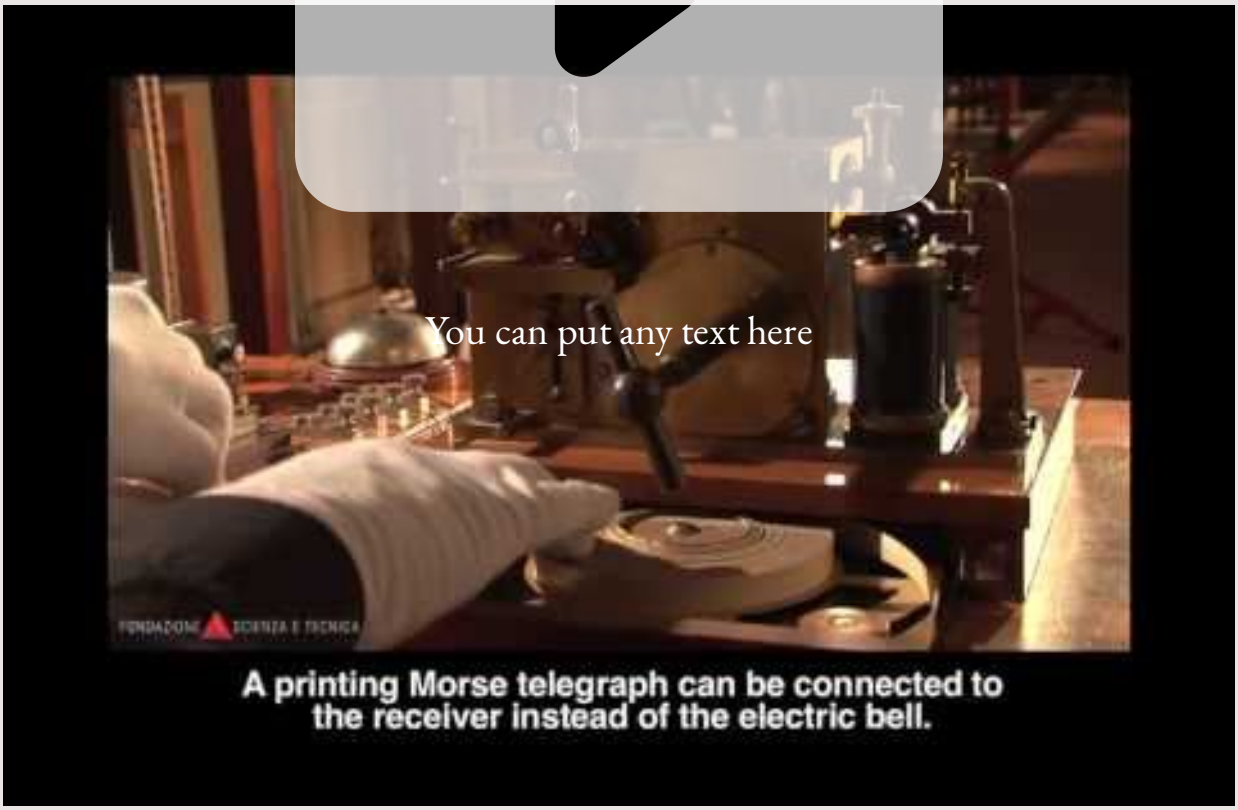
RAILROADING AND TELEGRAPHY.

Without question, for a young man of limited means, there is no business equal to Railroading and Telegraphy. The rapid progress in the building of railroads makes a constant demand for more station agents and telegraph operators, all of whom get remunerative wages from the start.

There has been so much demand for this line of work that at the urgent request of prominent railway officials this department was established, and great pains have been taken to make its equipment thorough and up to date. The instructor in Telegraphy and Railroad Bookkeeping is a man of many years' experience in railroad activity and knows how to get results from his students. This department promises to be one of the best in the institution.

From the 1906-07 Catalog

Although this particular book was not published until 1911, *Soule's Practical Method of Training: Telegraphy, Railroading, Express and Freight* published by the University Press, Cambridge, USA may have been very much like the textbook used for these classes. And the machines may have looked and sounded much like these:



After 1908, however, we don't see this particular course mentioned until 1942 when Dr. Nicholas Hyma and Professor William Hallam were training students for defense purposes and military service in World War II. Again, a specific need being met by the faculty and curriculum.

Also In Art

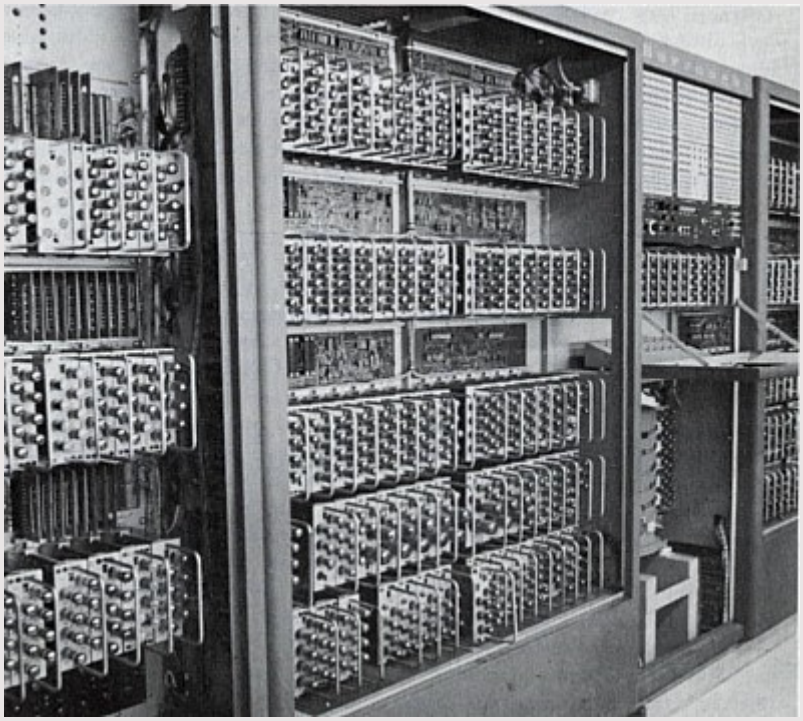
We have also seen innovations used in the curriculum in the area of Fine Arts. From 1891-1901 courses were taught in Crayoning.

West Virginia Wesleyan College offered courses in Crayoning from 1891-1901, which is very interesting considering that Binney & Smith did not begin making what we now know as crayons until 1902 and did not begin marketing them until 1903. Taught by WVWC Giants named Miss Maude McFarland (1891-94), Miss Persis H. Heermans (1894-96), Miss Alice Divine (1896-99), and Myrtle McElroy (1899-1901), art classes being taught at the college were up on the very latest of materials and methods. The company registered its patent for Carbon Black, it's first breakthrough, on May 26, 1891.

Binney and Smith produced the first box of eight Crayola crayons in 1903 — red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, brown, and black.

Image from the Oil and Natural Gas Historical Society Webpage

The word Crayon was coined by Mrs. Edwin Binney by combining the French word for chalk (craie) and the Latin root for the word oily (ola).



Burroughs Computer, 1964

Resourceful and Relevant

In the, an alumni publication, several stories show that the technology trend was continuing. All of this in only four pages!

- *Wesleyan FM Radio to Operate Soon* tells of the educational and cultural benefits to a nine county area – serving more than a quarter of the state of West Virginia.
- *Burroughs Computer Computing*, tells of a quarter-million dollar main frame computer which was awarded to Wesleyan — this computer was a “decided rarity in West Virginia” and one of only five awarded in the country! Dr. William R. Willis, professor of Physics, was learning and managing it as well as training faculty and staff to make great use of it.
- *IN Wesleyan*, tells of a “professionally filmed and narrated program is recognized as one of the finest productions of its kind and shows the total College program and facilities in action.”
- Wesleyan Tele-Lecture A West Virginia First
- And the issue highlights the *Nursing Building on the Boards* as well as celebrates the fact that the progress in fundraising for what would become Christopher Hall of Science in an article entitled *Science Building A Giant Step Closer.*

Then And Now — Resourceful and Relevant

Nursing Simulation Lab in Middleton Hall

August 6 The Band is Coming !

The Band is Coming! This statement marks the beginning of things. As a small child, I can remember the excitement of standing on the street corner waiting for a parade and the electricity that ran through the crowd as we heard the drums in the distance.

It is August, and a new year is about to begin at West Virginia Wesleyan College. And, next Saturday: The Band is Coming! The 2018 WVWC Bobcat Band will be arriving to prepare their show (Music from the Incredibles). The drums will be beating, the sounds of music will fill the air, the flags will wave.

Marching band at WVWC has had an interesting history. Although instrumental music groups the early years of the college were generally more in the form of an Orchestra, the 1915 catalog does begin to include band as well (although not necessarily in marching form.)

Orchestra and Band

Students who have some ability to play an instrument are invited to join the Orchestra. This organization meets weekly in the Auditorium and on occasions gives public concerts. A band of twenty-eight pieces is organized and gives concerts on occasions.

The College Band

The West Virginia Wesleyan College Band was organized in the spring of 1912. It quickly won a place of prominence among the student organizations, as it filled a place in the student interests that needed filling. This year the band has reached a higher state of efficiency than ever before under the instruction of Director Smith, and nothing that has the whole student body behind it can be "pulled off" without the band. New uniforms have been bought and now the College Band is a permanent fixture on the roll of student organizations.

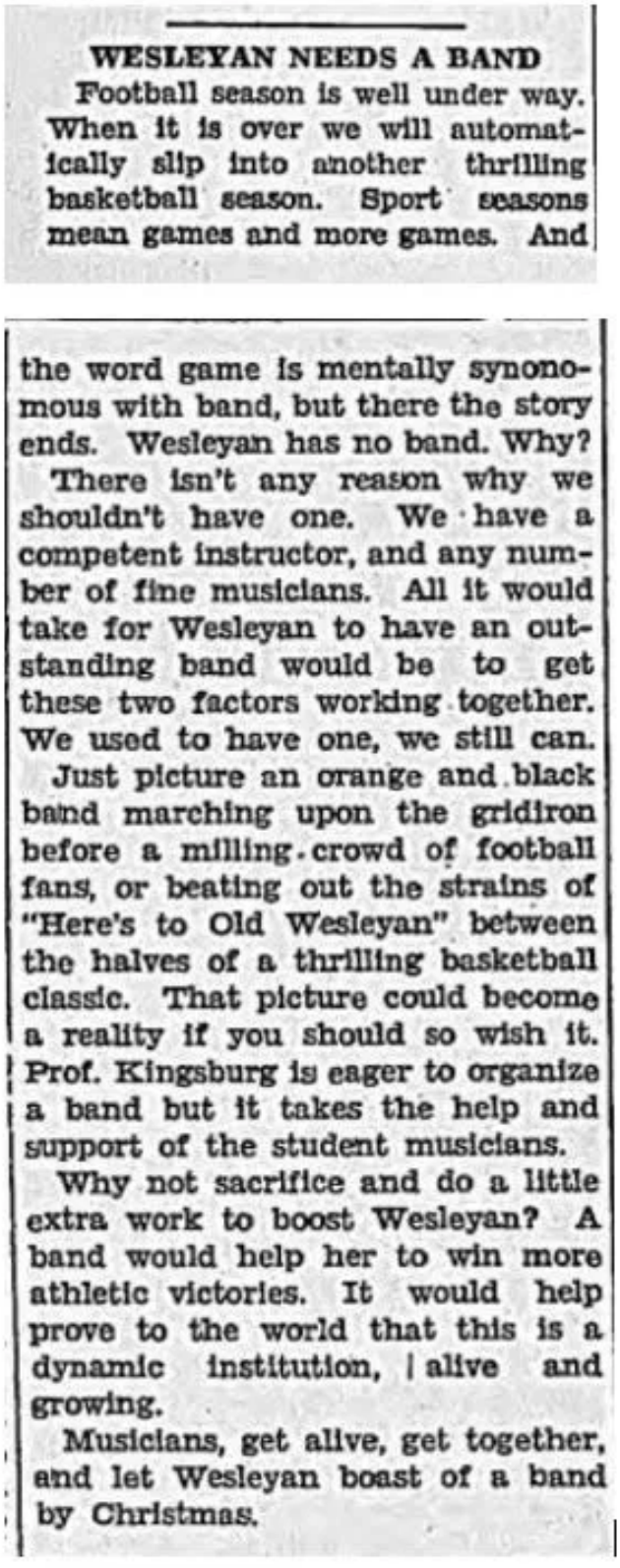
1915 Murmurmontis

The 1912 band was organized by Flavius Fay Smith, from Fairmont, who graduated from WVWC in the class of 1916. Student organized. Student led. Student enthusiasm.

FAY SMITH, B.S., Fairmont, W. Va.

After the graduation of Fay Smith and with the world in turmoil throughout World War I and the Great Depression, the band experienced ups and downs, but the Orchestra kept going strong, as it was part of the curriculum.

From the Pharos (10-03-1934)



WESLEYAN NEEDS A BAND

Football season is well under way. When it is over we will automatically slip into another thrilling basketball season. Sport seasons mean games and more games. And the word game is mentally synonomous with band, but there the story ends. Wesleyan has no band. Why?

There isn't any reason why we shouldn't have one. We have a competent instructor, and any number of fine musicians. All it would take for Wesleyan to have an outstanding band would be to get these two factors working together. We used to have one, we still can.

Just picture an orange and black band marching upon the gridiron before a milling crowd of football fans, or beating out the strains of "Here's to Old Wesleyan" between the halves of a thrilling basketball classic. That picture could become a reality if you should so wish it. Prof. Kingsburg is eager to organize a band but it takes the help and support of the student musicians.

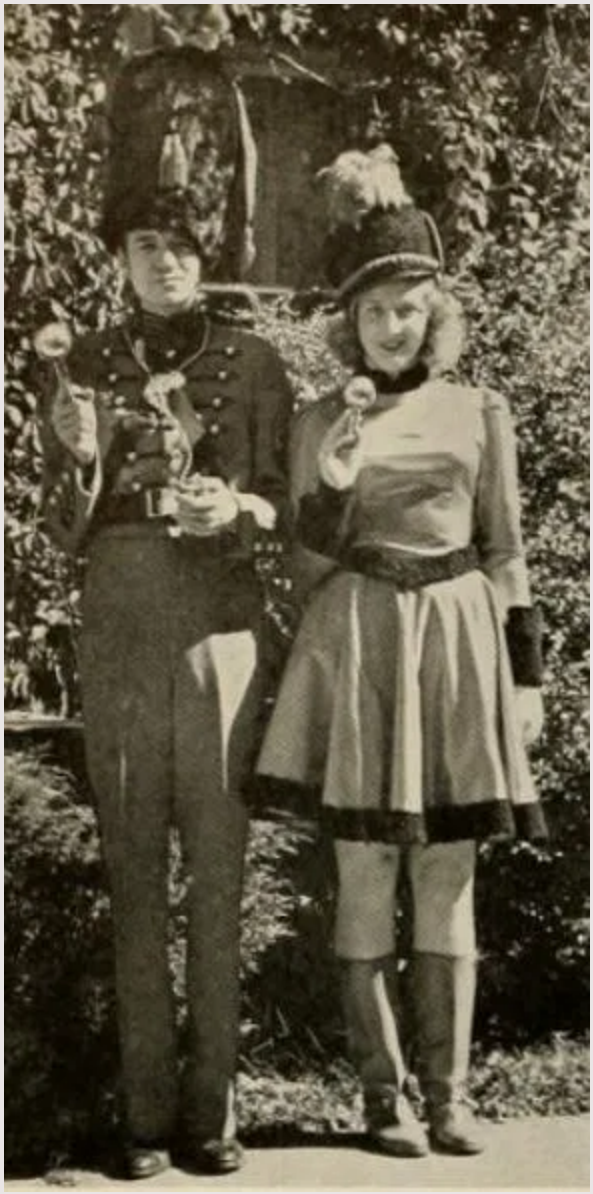
Why not sacrifice and do a little extra work to boost Wesleyan? A band would help her to win more athletic victories. It would help prove to the world that this is a dynamic institution, alive and growing.

Musicians, get alive, get together, and let Wesleyan boast of a band by Christmas.

In the October 3, 1934 issue of the Pharos, a letter to the editor indicates that there was still a desire and a need for a band.

The competent instructor mentioned in this article is actually C. Lawrence Kingsbury, WVWC Class of 1935, who was an Instructor in the Music Department. (He later went on to get his Ed.D. in Music from the University of Indiana and to become the Chairman of the Music Department there, and also at Marshall University.) Again, students provided great leadership.

1940s



WVWC Drum Major and Drum Majorette, 1940

The 1940 Marching Band was led onto the field by Drum Major Ronald Sleeth, future president of the college, and Drum Majorette Gloria Harvey.

BAND

Although small, Wesleyan's band has in its membership a very capable group of musicians. They play for all home football and basketball games and do their part in keeping the school spirit high. Band sponsors are selected each year.

1950s

1950 Homecoming Parade

The 1955 Band had a great time and added to school spirit under the direction of C. Buell Agey, according to the Murmurmontis.

BAND

K. RYDER, G. McDONALD, J. BELCHER, N. DERRY, D. KEYSER

This year was a good year for the Wesleyan band. Under the capable direction of Dr. C. Buell Agey, and with the help of drum major Evertsen, there were performances at games and an assembly concert in November. The band participated at most of the home football and basketball games and really added a lot to school spirit.

The beginning of the school year found the band practicing hard to prepare for football season and the Homecoming weekend. At Homecoming the band marched in the parade making a very nice picture of orange and black uniforms and shining instruments. At the game that afternoon the band presented a well executed half-time show in spite of the snow and mud on the field.

There were approximately thirty-five playing members in the band this year. During basketball season Dr. Agey organized a group to play for some of the home games. He also helped to organize our well-known dance band, "The Collegians."

The band members surely had fun working together and were rather disappointed that the plans for going to some away games didn't work out. It seemed that inclement weather always interfered with the plans. Well, maybe next time. . . . .

1960

The 45 member band, under the direction of Assistant Professor Owen West presented four shows that year. Apparently Professor West loved to design and name shows.

- Half-time in Blue
- Salute to the 49th and 50th States
- Around the World
- Music, Music, Music

Owen West

Concert, Marching Band Outlines Appearance Dates For Coming School Year

The West Virginia Wesleyan College concert and marching band, under the direction of Owen L. West, is looking forward to a year filled with exciting football games, seasonal and exchange concerts.

The first engagement of the marching band will be at Fairmont State, October 1. Wesleyan's band will provide half time - time entertainment, called, appropriately, "Election." The marching band will also be playing at all Wesleyan's home games.

The concert band's program for the year includes playing for a student assembly on December 1, in Atkinson chapel. In February there will be a day tour to two West Virginia high schools. Also, tentatively scheduled for February, is a mid - winter concert. The last program for the year will be an outdoor concert scheduled for May Day weekend.

Mr. West has high hopes for the band being the best ever. New majorettes and sponsors have been chosen. The head majorette this year is Barbara Hall. Recently selected majorettes are Shirley Hess and Ardith Hollis. Louise Christian, Lois Ault, Bonnie Harrison, and Deedie Justice are the newly selected sponsors; alternates are Joyce Riffle and Ruth Wilson.

There are still openings in the woodwind and brass sections of the band. Anyone interested may apply to Mr. West in room 29 of Loar hall. The band will be rehearsing Monday 7 to 8 p. m.; Tuesday and Thursday 3 to 4 p. m.

Pharos 09-27-1960

The Milburn Years 1970s through early 2000s

David A. Milburn

The 1966 arrival of David Milburn, known to his earlier students as Slide and later students as Doc, coincided with the growing popularity of Jazz Music. This was evident in the selections of music chosen for the marching band.

1968

- Goin' Out of My Head
- Windy
- Up, Up and Away

1969

- Joshua
- Swing Low
- When the Saints Go Marching In

1970

- Witchcraft
- America

1970 Murmurmontis

In 1970, the October 6th issue of the Pharos tells us that the band is limited due to uniforms. David Milburn says that the 60 member band could easily become a 100 member band if there were enough uniforms.

Even with the shortages of uniforms, the band grew and was very successful. In 1973, they were the Honor Band at the Mountain State Forest Festival. Their sound was described as “Tremendous.”

By 1975, the band was marching 80 people, dressed in a different type of uniform. This was followed by a band for the next few years who took the field sporting jeans and Polo Shirts.

First row, l to r: Emma Witten, Jan Palmer, Marcie Holladay, Nancy Riffle, Vicki Parnell, Cheryl Donaldson, Pam Blackburn, Mary Reneau, Laverne Shields, Vicky Wright, Dan Hawes, Jack Menard, Dale Rogers, Rocco Mazzei, Greg Criss, Debbie Kemo, Jane Dorsey, Kathy Busch, Kathy Dye, Linda Capaldi, Janet Whalen, Sue Beriault, Pam Furr, Joanne Mezzacapo, Debbie Davidson, Cheryl Estes, *Second row:* Karen Kilner, Karen Johnson, Beth Gilgen, Todd Brereton, Cindy Brown, Alice Brucker, Linda Riffee, Linda VanFleet, Patty Moffett, Carol Garlick, Neil Randolph, Dave Culp, Kevin Rhodes, Rick Mason, Jim Frame, *Third row:* Dave Milburn — Director, Paula Lowther, Debbie Loper, Sandy Showen, LouAnne Abbadini, Elizabeth Loftis, Jane Sherburne, Cyndy Pusey, Cindy Knappenberger, Russell Osburn, Dave Laraba, Greg Blair, Natalie Oakes, Eric Jones, Mike DeWitt, Barb Purbaugh, *Fourth row:* Jan Sandridge, Lynn Wright, Diane Moore, Donna Rutherford, Barbara Wygal, Karen Johnson, *Fifth row:* John Carson, Less Haines, Tom Moore, Bob Easton, John Rademaker, Andy Martin, Jeff Walton, Phil Loftis, Don Olah, Ken Long, Charlie Pillon, Marcia Koch, Jim Fawcett, Charlene Goodell, Larry Modula, Jude Gore

1975 Band

The 1977 season featured songs that brought the crowds at football games to their feet:

- Old Days (by Chicago)
- Ease on Down the Road (from The Wiz)
- Beethoven's 5th "Rock Style"

The band was honored that year when President Ronald Sleeth (former Drum Major) came by and conducted the Wesleyan Fight Song in the Stands.

Here's To Old Wesleyan
Here's to Old Wesleyan, Oh
Here's to Old Wesleyan, Oh
Here's to the School of the Orange and Black
Here's to the School of Fight
Here's to the School of Might
Here's to Old West Virginia Wesleyan
LET'S GO BOBCATS!

35 Year Marching Band Drought

Due to many factors, the band did not field a Marching Band again for many years. It was not due to a lack of interest on the part of students. The music program in general was very healthy and robust, especially in the area of Jazz and Choral Music. The band continued to sit in the stands at football games, although in fewer numbers.

And then came Logan Lindsey in 2014.

Photo from Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram

In 2014, the decision was made to revitalize the Marching Band. They started small that year, with 25 students, but have shown steady growth, enthusiasm, talent, and downright passion. 2018 they will field about 90. Yes, they are still in search of uniforms, but their sound is intense and electrifying. Their show is the music from the popular movie The Incredibles. *And I have NO doubt that the term will be fitting.*

Here is a YouTube video from their Facebook Page, showing them as the honor band at the Fairmont Band Spectacular last fall. The crowd had just seen 18 excellent high school bands in fancy uniforms. They were tired, and probably all ready to head home. Probably a 19th band was a bit of a stretch for their patience, but the WVWC Bobcat Marching Band did not disappoint!

The WVWC Band had already had a busy day. They had played pregame concerts, home football game halftime, and pep music in the stands for a home game in Buckhannon. Then they headed to Fairmont, watched (and cheered for) all of those bands, and still managed to be amazing.

The girl sitting in front of me that evening said that she was considering going to WVWC, but only “if the band was any good.” She watched and cheered and got very excited about this performance. Maybe she will be among those gathering for Band Camp next Saturday. I hope so!

I think that Flavius Fay Smith who was from Fairmont, WV (and who organized the first WVWC band in 1912) was probably cheering somewhere in those stands at the Fairmont Band Spectacular as well!

The Band Is Coming!

August 13 The Wesleyan Welcome

Some words have very deep meanings, and we use them a lot.

We sometimes use them so much that we don't stop to think how powerful they really are. Life changing at times.

Already this week I am hearing one of these words multiple times a day, and in the next week or so I expect to hear it spoken, shouted, and squealed. There will be a convocation in which I predict that the word will be used hundreds of times. It will appear on signs, tweets, posts, syllabi, webpages, and will actually permeate the air. There will be hugs involved.

That word is . . . Welcome!

Tweeted in August 2018 with the #IChoseWVWC

Why do I think this will happen?
Because it has happened here for over a century —
and there are witnesses.

Multiple teams and groups and bands and organizations have Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. All of them are sending out messages of welcome to new folks and welcome back to returning members.

Student Leaders in 2017

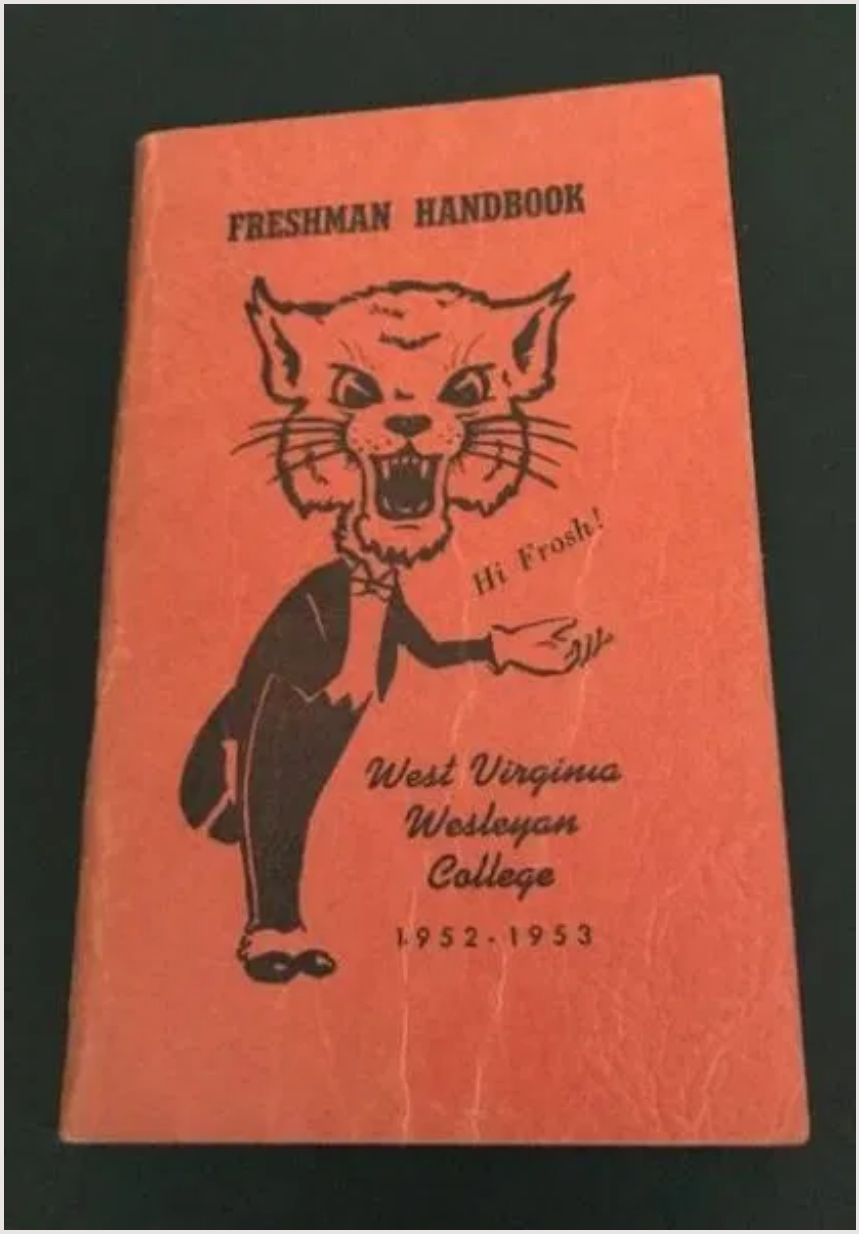
Here is a photo from Orientation Weekend last year, for example. These students stood at the corner of College Avenue and Meade Street for hours waving to new students and their families as they came to campus. They answered questions and pointed the way. With huge smiles, they shouted, *"Welcome to Wesleyan!"*

Family Weekend 2009

On Family Weekend of 2009, student Robbie Quarles manned the post for parent nametags. He welcomed them and helped with questions or the directions that they needed. (p.s. he is now the Director of Multicultural Programs and Services and we call him Dr. Quarles as of this summer.) In 2015 he was welcomed back in his new role.

New Faculty 1980

New faculty are also welcomed!



Freshman Handbook 1952-1953

This has been going on for decades!
Sometimes it is the faculty doing the welcoming.
Other times, it is the students.

This handbook, given to the entering students in 1952-1953 includes a welcome letter from the Community Council President.

Greetings and welcome to West Virginia Wesleyan College!

It goes on to say.....At Wesleyan you'll find that everyone just about breaks his neck to make you feel you belong here. It won't take you long to find that out. Don't ever be afraid to ask any of these worldly and wise-looking characters about anything you might want to know. They'll always be glad to find someone who can answer your questions.

Who Is Welcomed?

- New Students
- Returning Students
- Prospective Students
- New Faculty
- New Staff
- Families of Students
- Teams
- Small Groups
- Whole Classes
- Alumni
- Artists and Musicians who come to perform
- Speakers who come to bring us words of wisdom
- Groups and Camps all summer long
- West Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference

There are Other Living Witnesses – Our Beautiful and Very Old Trees

Original Seminary Building (Burned in 1905) and Trees 1900

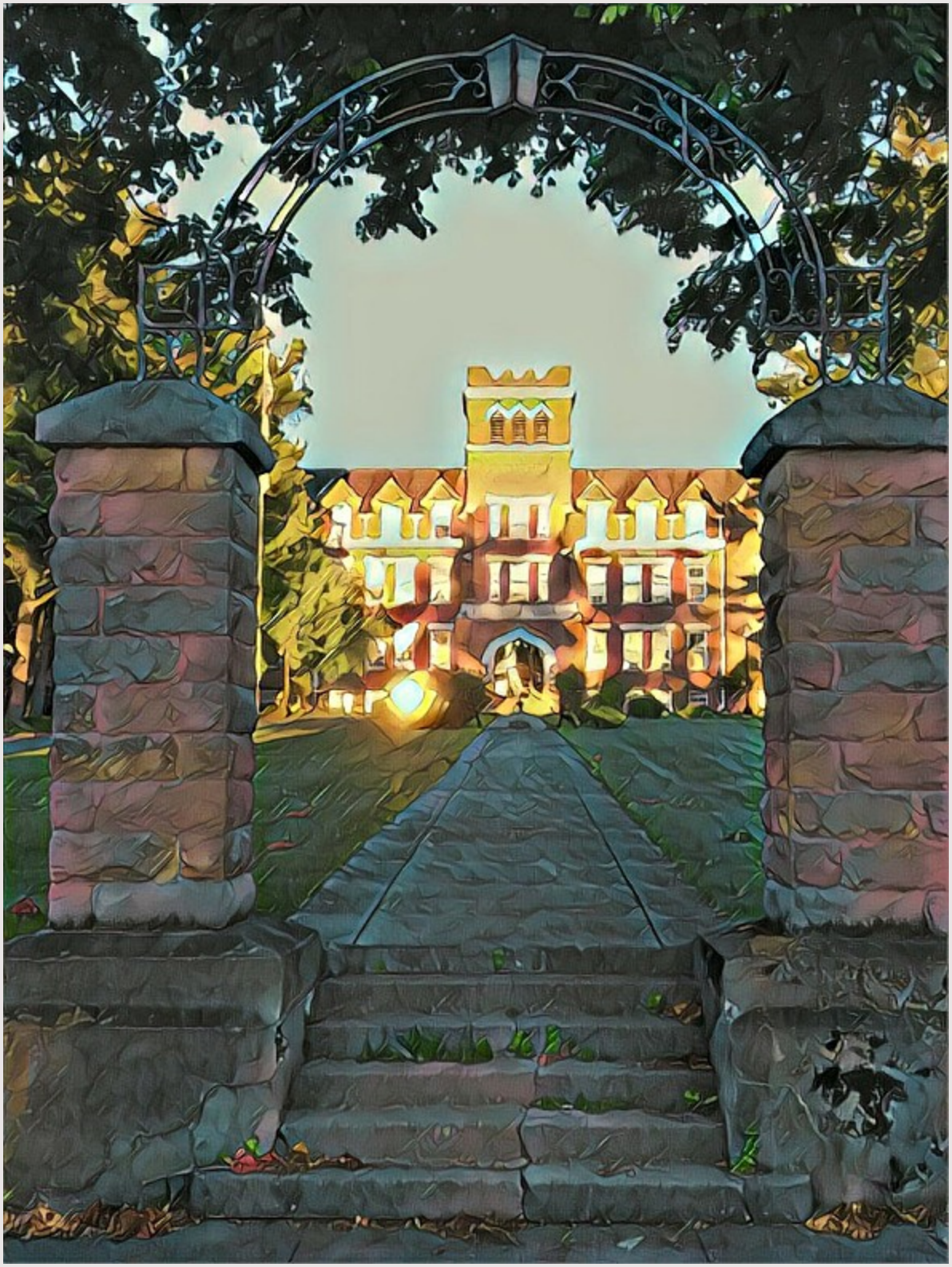
120 Years Later this tree towers over the Lynch-Raine Administration Building.

Recently, I came across some information about something that I've never stopped to consider before: **Witness Trees.** For example, there are some trees that have been present at key moments during American History. See more about these in an article from the Smithsonian.

The many old and beautiful trees on our campus
have witnessed thousands of welcomes,
welcomed thousands to campus,
and watched many a *welcome-back* reunion

They are our very own Witness Trees.

August 20 The Harmer Gateway



The February 24, 1926 issue of the Pharos tells us:

Since earliest times of civilization people have built walls around their cities and castles as a means of protection. The gates of these walls required much time and money because they were to be ornamental as well as useful. And then, as civilization advanced, there was no need for these walls and they gradually crumbled away, but the custom of using gates for ornamentation has been preserved to the present day. It is a rare thing to find an institution that does not have a gate somewhere on its grounds.

Of the hundreds of students that daily pass through these gates on Wesleyan's campus probably few ever give a thought of them.

That was true then, and it is even more so today. In fact, the stories behind these gates are becoming a bit fuzzy. For example, the Harmer Gateway.

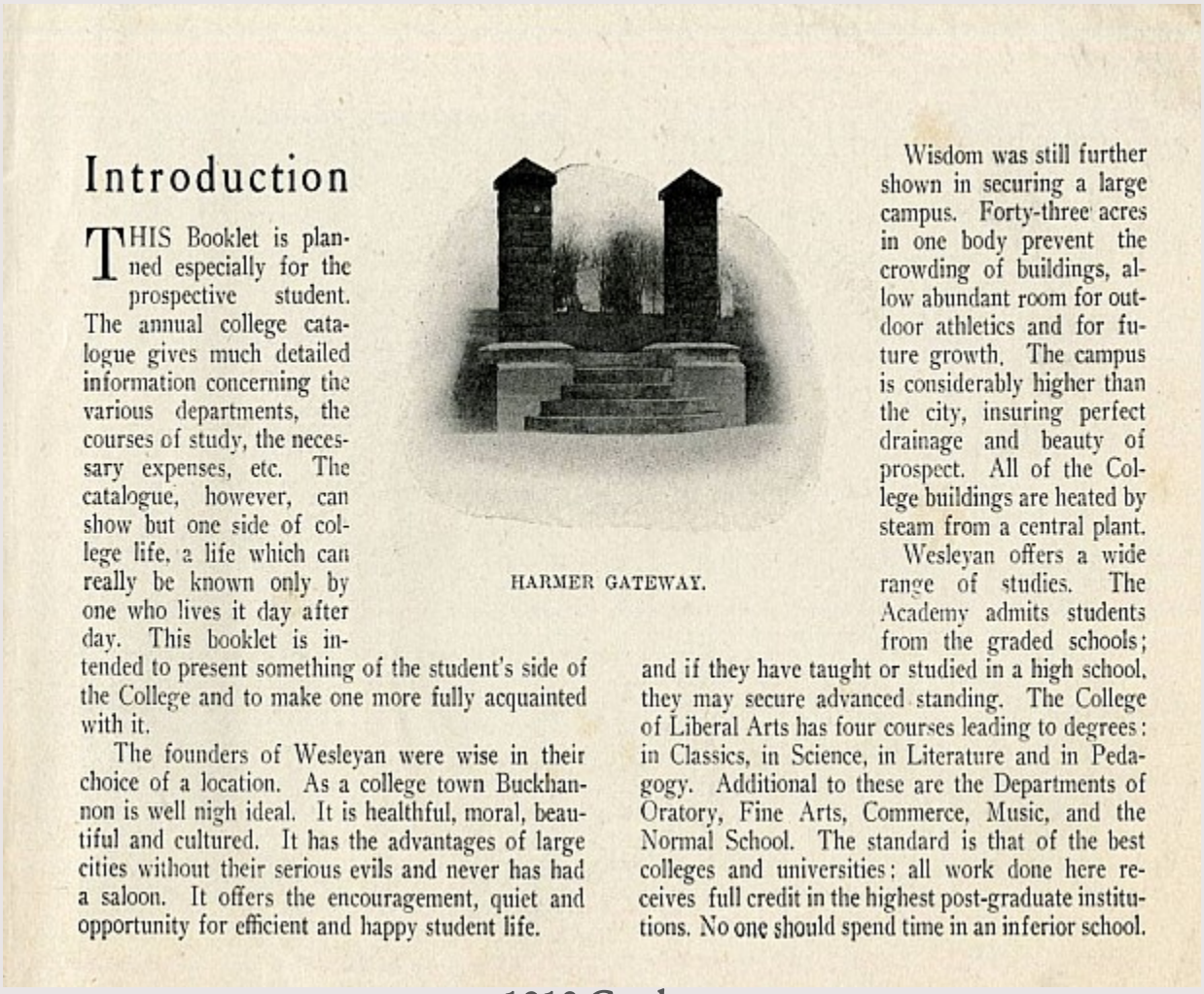
For many years, each class would choose someone they admired and would take the name of that person. The Class of 1908 was known as The Harmer Class after Harvey Walker Harmer. In appreciation of this honor, and in honor of the class of 1908, he donated the funds for the Harmer Gateway.

Photo from Bench and Bar of West VIrginia

The Honorable Harvey W. Harmer was a Trustee of the college from 1906-37, and a Trustee Emeritus from 1937-61.

He was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1894 and to the West Virginia Senate in 1900. He served on the Board of Regents of the State Normal Schools and for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind. He was the mayor of Clarksburg, West Virginia.

In George W. Atkinson's 1919 work, *Bench and Bar of West Virginia,* Harmer is described as "a safe and wise counselor, a conscientious adviser, and is deliberate in all of his acts; and better than all else he at all times seeks to be just and entirely fair with his fellow men."



Introduction

THIS Booklet is planned especially for the prospective student. The annual college catalogue gives much detailed information concerning the various departments, the courses of study, the necessary expenses, etc. The catalogue, however, can show but one side of college life, a life which can really be known only by one who lives it day after day. This booklet is intended to present something of the student's side of the College and to make one more fully acquainted with it.

The founders of Wesleyan were wise in their choice of a location. As a college town Buckhannon is well nigh ideal. It is healthful, moral, beautiful and cultured. It has the advantages of large cities without their serious evils and never has had a saloon. It offers the encouragement, quiet and opportunity for efficient and happy student life.

HARMER GATEWAY.

Wisdom was still further shown in securing a large campus. Forty-three acres in one body prevent the crowding of buildings, allow abundant room for outdoor athletics and for future growth. The campus is considerably higher than the city, insuring perfect drainage and beauty of prospect. All of the College buildings are heated by steam from a central plant.

Wesleyan offers a wide range of studies. The Academy admits students from the graded schools; and if they have taught or studied in a high school, they may secure advanced standing. The College of Liberal Arts has four courses leading to degrees: in Classics, in Science, in Literature and in Pedagogy. Additional to these are the Departments of Oratory, Fine Arts, Commerce, Music, and the Normal School. The standard is that of the best colleges and universities; all work done here receives full credit in the highest post-graduate institutions. No one should spend time in an inferior school.

1910 Catalog

1917 view of the Harmer Gateway

On February 3, 1926, Harvey W. Harmer married the former Dean of Women – Florence Warden Stemple. Dean Stemple had been a member of the class of 1908! After receiving her degree from WVWC, she went on to get her masters degree from Columbia University before coming back to her alma mater as the Dean of Women from February 1924 through January of 1926.

Florence W. Stemple, 1926

She is quoted in the January 27, 1926 issue of the Pharos as saying: *It is necessary for someone to build a foundation upon which another woman, who has had special training, can build upon.*

She was known as one who gave independence and guidance to the young women at Wesleyan. This just six years after women were given the right to vote when the Nineteenth Ammendment was passed in 1920.

Harmer Gateway 1950

Gift of Harvey W. Harmer

This space was renovated & rededicated as part of a collaborative sidewalk project between the City of Buckhannon & West Virginia Wesleyan College during the summer of 2016.

Restored in 2014

In the summer of 2016, the area was renovated and rededicated as part of a collaborative sidewalk project between the City of Buckhannon and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Benches and plaques were included to honor President Pamela Balch, who was President of Wesleyan from 2006-2016 and Dr. Barry Pritts, who had been Vice President for Administration and Finance for a decade.

A gateway leads us to a new place.

You can go through it from more than one direction and with more than one perspective.

Gateways Go Both Ways

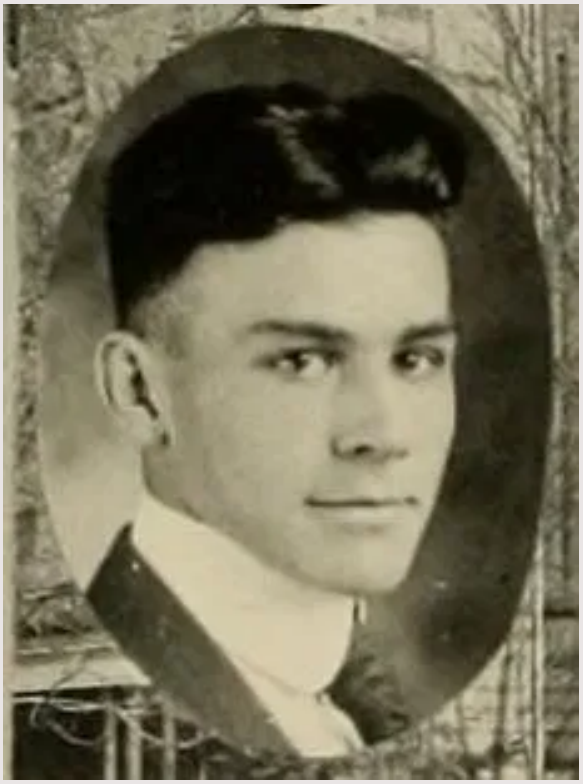
Since 2008, this is the way you walk from campus to the Virginia Thomas Law Center for the Performing Arts. The next time you pass that way, give a thought of appreciation to Harvey Walker Harmer (and his wife).

Or, perhaps imagine in your mind's eye the days when this was the front door of campus, and framed one of our oldest buildings.

Harmer Gateway 1934

August 27 The Ross Legend

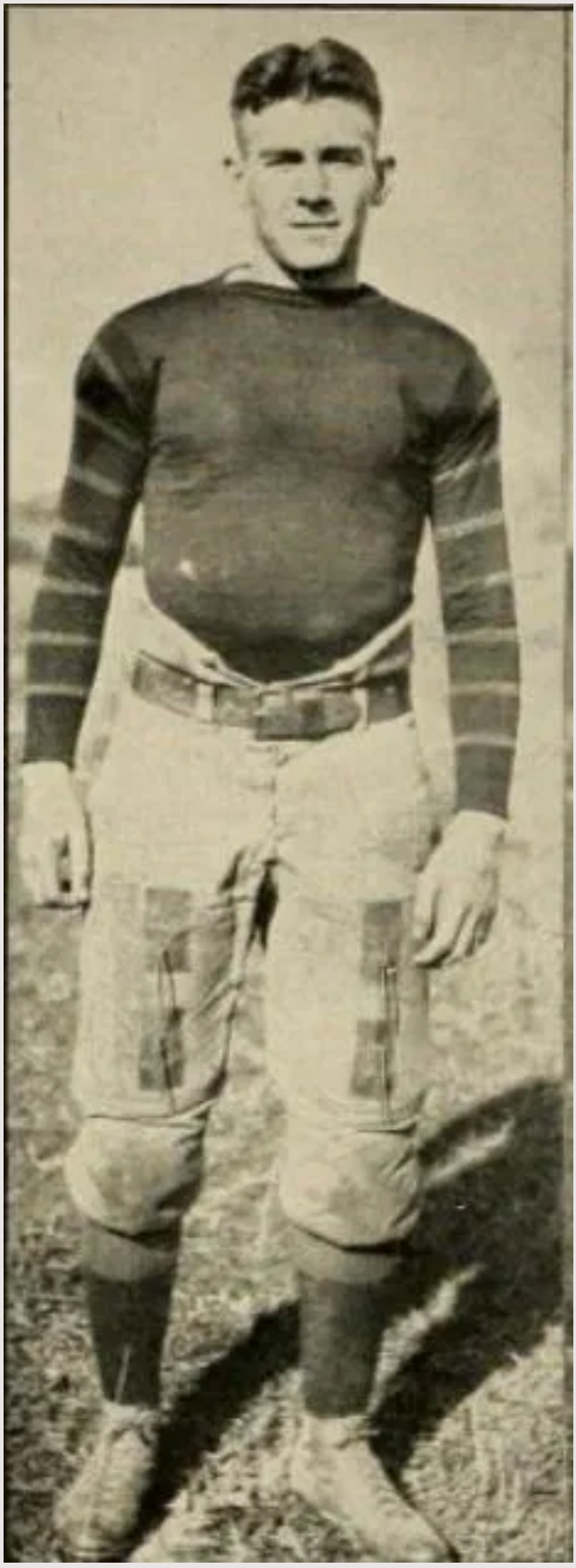
This Saturday, we will gather at Cebe Ross Memorial Field for the first football game of the season. And we should remember Cebe Ross. Many never knew this legendary man. Others may only know part of the story.



This photo from the 1921 Murmurmontis shows Cecil B. Ross as a Freshman in 1919-1920. He was on the Football and Basketball Teams, and a member of the Chrestomathean Literary Society.

The coach of the WVWC football team from 1920-24 was Bob Higgins, a three-time All American standout player from Penn State who played professional football with the Canton Bulldogs in 1920 and 1921; and was later head coach at Penn State from 1930-48. Higgins was inducted into the College Hall of Fame in 1954.

Higgins saw great potential in a young Cebe Ross.



By the 1921-22 season, Cebe appeared as Halfback and Quarterback and had the reputation of being a powerhouse on the team. The photo caption read:

Cecil Ross, Halfback and Quarter

"Cebe played more or less in all the backfield positions this year. He was in practically every game, showing to especial advantage on the defensive against the University."

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent		Wesleyan
9/25/20	West Virginia University	14	0
10/ 2/20	W. and J.	7	7
10/ 9/20	Grove City	0	7
10/16/20	Georgetown University	27	7
10/23/20	Thiel	0	20
10/30/20	Morris Harvey College	0	62
11/ 6/20	George Washington University	7	101
11/13/20	University of Detroit	29	0
11/27/20	Marietta	6	0

That year the team had great success!

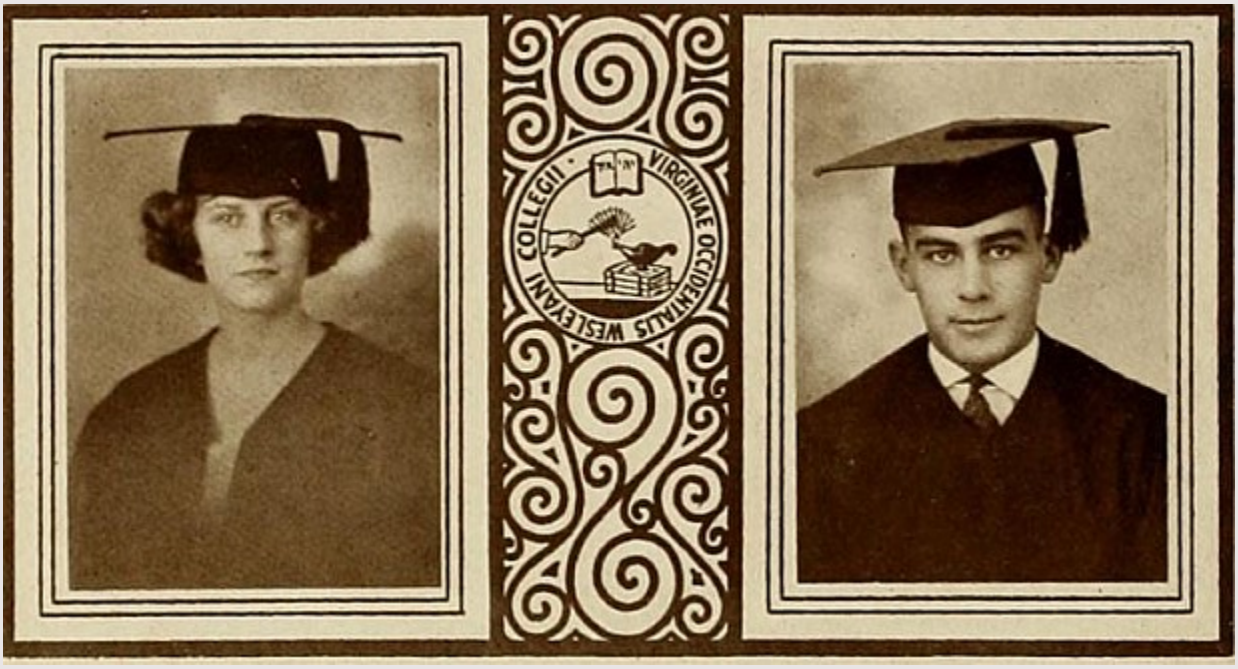
By his Senior Year, this is what was listed under his name.

CECIL B. ROSS, A.B. . . . . Buckhannon, W. Va.

"One fairer than my love! the all seeing sun
Ne'er saw her match, since first the world begun."

Chrestomathean; Football, '19, '20, '21, '22; Basketball, '20, '21, '22, '23; Baseball, '20, '21, '22, '23; Varsity Club.

Upon his graduation, Cebe coached at Buckhannon High School for a few seasons, leading them to a State Championship in 1924, and then returned to Wesleyan in 1925 as Coach of All Sports. That year, he also married his college sweetheart, Mary L. Morgan.



1924 Murmurmontis
Cebe and his future wife, Mary L. Morgan were side by side on the page

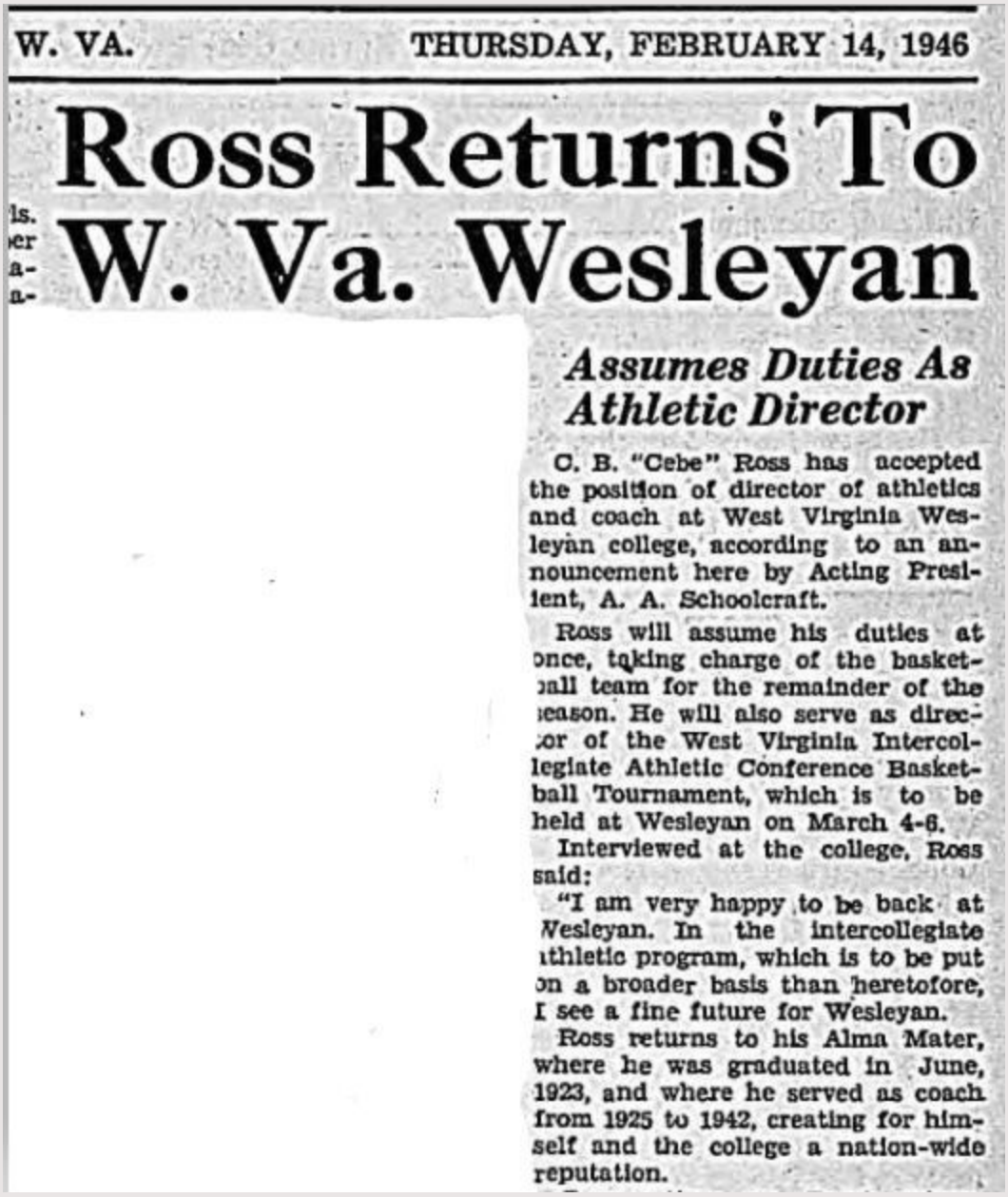
Along with his other athletic duties at WVWC, Cebe coached the football team from 1925-1941, coaching such greats as Cliff Battles (Class of 1933) who was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1968. Battles joined Earle "Greasy" Neal (Class of 1914) who was also inducted to that body in 1969.

During these years, the Bobcats played and defeated such teams as:

- New York University
- West Virginia University
- Navy
- Kentucky University
- Duquesne University

Sadly, football was dealt a major blow when the 1942-1945 seasons were cancelled due to disruptions caused by World War II. During this time, Cebe Ross left Buckhannon to coach at Morris Harvey and to serve in the Navy.

The Pharos had a joyful headline on February 14, 1946.



W. VA. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1946

Ross Returns To W. Va. Wesleyan

Assumes Duties As Athletic Director

C. B. "Cebe" Ross has accepted the position of director of athletics and coach at West Virginia Wesleyan college, according to an announcement here by Acting President, A. A. Schoolcraft.

Ross will assume his duties at once, taking charge of the basketball team for the remainder of the season. He will also serve as director of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament, which is to be held at Wesleyan on March 4-6.

Interviewed at the college, Ross said:

"I am very happy to be back at Wesleyan. In the intercollegiate athletic program, which is to be put on a broader basis than heretofore, I see a fine future for Wesleyan.

Ross returns to his Alma Mater, where he was graduated in June, 1923, and where he served as coach from 1925 to 1942, creating for himself and the college a nation-wide reputation.

You can read the entire story here.

Cebe (Class of 1923) was not the only member of his family to be involved with WVWC. His older brother, Kelcel (Class of 1920), was also a standout athlete at the school and did some teaching of Physical Education and coaching before leaving to pursue his calling as a lawyer.

Kelcel Ross, 1925

Brother Perce Joseph Ross (Class of 1925) was a successful businessman in Buckhannon, operating the Perce Ross Men's and Ladies' Wear Store for many years. He was also a Trustee of the College from 1961-76 and served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1939-46.

Photo by Howard Hiner

Wife, Mary Morgan Ross (Class of 1923), was the Circulation Librarian and Instructor of Library Science from 1961-70.

His son, Sam Ross, taught Physical Education,
and held several administrative positions from 1956-88.

Photo by Howard Hiner

Sister-in-Law Alice Nason Ross taught Physical Education for Women from 1921-1940. She was married to Cebe's older brother, Guy Ross ca. 1939.

Alice Nason 1933

Cebe's Football Legacy at WVWC

Cebe Ross (Class of 1923) coached David Reemsnyder (Class of 1930)

David Reemsnyder (Class of 1930) coached Hank Ellis (Class of 1943)

Hank Ellis (Class of 1943) coached Kent Carpenter (Class of 1963)

Kent Carpenter (Class of 1963) coached Bill Struble (Class of 1977)

Bill Struble (Class of 1977) coached current Coach, Del Smith (Class of 2005)

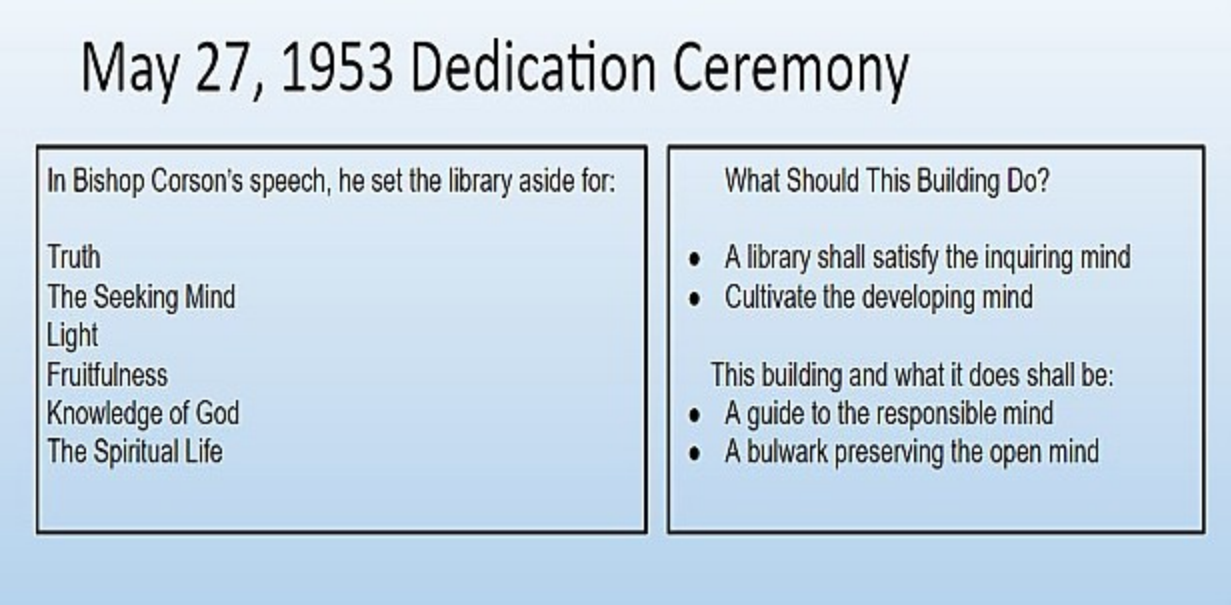
Photo by Sarah Sisson

Editor's Note: *It turns out that on Saturday Wesleyan played Concord. Paul Price, Coach for Concord University, is also a WVWC Grad (1984) and was coached by Kent Carpenter. And previously Paul Price had been an assistant coach who coached Del Smith. The game was tied at 31 until Concord kicked a field goal with 2 seconds to go. The spirit of Cebe Ross was in high evidence in the stadium that afternoon.*

September 3 Buildings Shape Us

Buildings. We pass by them every day. We enter them without a thought that they might not always have been there. First we build our buildings, and then they build us.

Bishop Frederick Corson echoed Churchill's words on May 27, 1953 at the dedication ceremony of the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library. His remarks covered a wide range of things relevant for today, and I would encourage you to take a look at what he had to say about such things as Liberal Arts, education and democracy, the great success and growth of WVWC.


May 27, 1953 Dedication Ceremony
In Bishop Corson's speech, he set the library aside for:
Truth
The Seeking Mind
Light
Fruitfulness
Knowledge of God
The Spiritual Life
What Should This Building Do?
A library shall satisfy the inquiring mind
Cultivate the developing mind
This building and what it does shall be:
A guide to the responsible mind
A bulwark preserving the open mind

Building the Buildings

The buildings themselves provide the space for us to learn, live, grow, and share as a community. But buildings do not just appear by magic. They take much planning and fundraising. Then they take a lot of detailed work by architects. Then, the hard work and sweat of those who actually build them. It takes time, effort, and resources to build buildings.

Fleming 1952 (photo by Howard Hiner)

Benedum Campus Community Center, 1963 (photo by Howard Hiner)

Chapel Steeple 1967 (photo by Howard Hiner)

Reemsnyder September 2008 (photo by Allison Hull)

Working in the Buildings

People work in them once they are finished. There are those who work hard to maintain and clean them. People who do the painting, fix the windows, keep the air conditioning and heat at the proper levels. People who are locksmiths, carpenters, groundskeepers, and who make sure that the physical environment is clean, comfortable, and safe. It takes time, effort, and resources to maintain our buildings.

The more buildings there are, the bigger job this becomes!

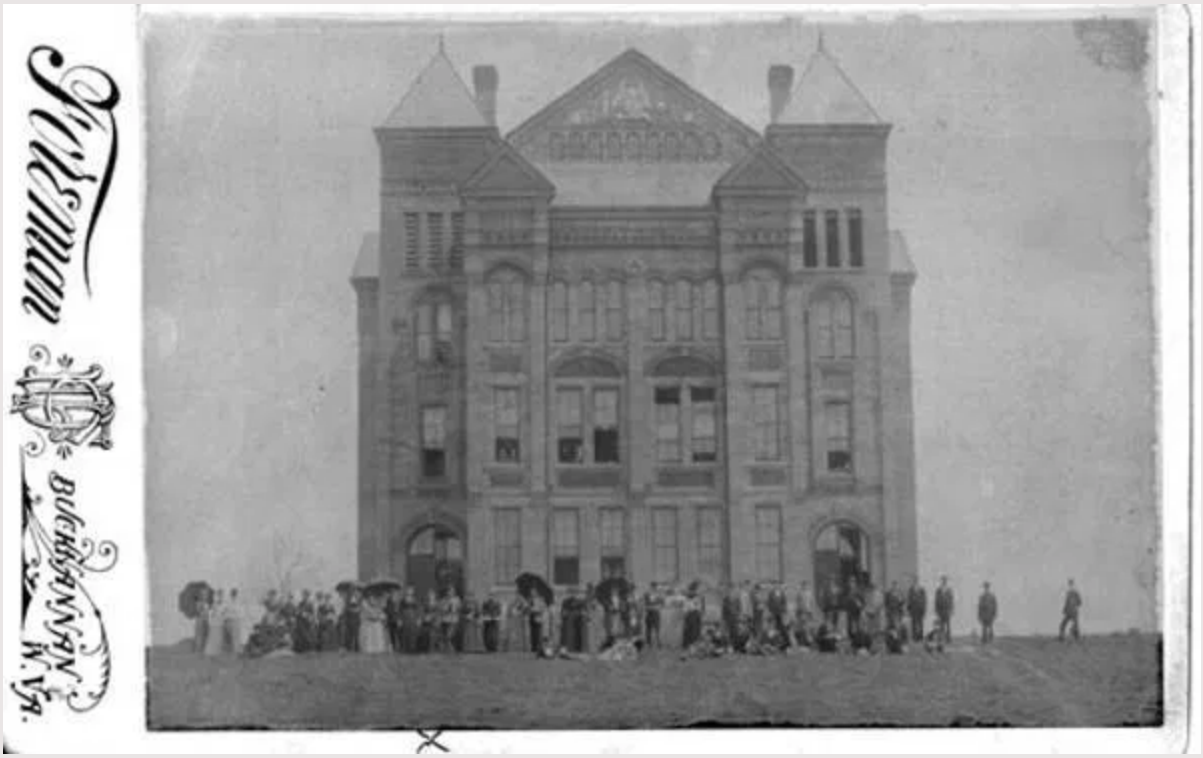
On this Labor Day 2018, we especially salute all of these hard workers. Many I know by name because I have been in the buildings where they work. Others I do not know, but your work makes everything else possible.

Thanks for all you do!!!

Buildings Build Us

At a college, there are those who teach in them and those who learn. Through this process people are built just as surely as the physical brick and mortar building is built. It takes time, effort, and resources to build our students.

- The Lynch-Raine Administration Building builds Business Leaders, Communicators, and Educators.
- The English Annex builds writers and those who love literature.
- Haymond builds historians, political scientists, and those who focus on issues such as Gender Studies and Social Justice. It used to build scientists, but Christopher and Reemsnyder do that now.
- The Library provides resources and a space for learners to interact with all of the wisdom of the ages (and their own thoughts).
- Loar builds musicians.
- The Martin Religious Center, connected to Wesley Chapel, builds people who think deeply and who tend to spiritual matters. Our founders would be especially proud to know of Bishops Peter Weaver (1966) and Thomas Bickerton (1980), and several others who have become leaders in the United Methodist denomination.
- Middleton builds Nurses.
- John D. Rockefeller, IV Physical Education Center builds Excercise Scientists and Athletic Trainers.



On the previous page we see the original building on campus shown with the student body of 1892. Included in that group of students would have been Thomas W. Haught and several others who became trustees and faculty and administrators in later years. They helped to guide and to build the school, and they wrote the histories so that we would know our heritage.

WVWC Class of 2022

This group (Class of 2022) is studying The Legacy of Dreamers and Giants (WVWC History) this fall. They will be learning about all of our buildings, those who built them, and those who have been built within the walls.

And the building goes on.

September 10 The Gift of Story

Where can we find stories about West Virginia Wesleyan College?

W. V. W.

Seminary Herald.

Devoted to the interests of the West Virginia Conference Seminary.

Vol. II. BUCKHANNON, W. VA., JANUARY, 1885. No. 4.

SEMINARY HERALD.

Published every second month during the school year.

Correspondence designed for the Editor should be addressed to the President of the Seminary.

Mid-Winter Concert.

The concert of the Music Department, December 20th, was a very attractive and excellent performance. A large company were present,—in fact, the largest attendance of any concert ever given during any winter term.

The young ladies acquitted themselves with great credit. Miss Pendell's work, especially, was spoken of very highly, by all who heard her. The Music Department is certainly in good hands, and promises to grow into a more important feature of our work each year.

Woman in the Front

The last number of the HERALD contained a suggestion from a lady of our church, urging that the women of Methodism "ought to build the College Home" or Boarding Hall. And why not? Nothing would be more appropriate than that this new building should be erected chiefly by the subscriptions of the devoted women of the church to-day for the future women of Methodism. Would that God might put it into the heart of some noble benevolent woman to give $10,000 and name the building. It would stand as a lasting memorial for the donor or some loved one. Why can this not occur in West Virginia as similar acts have been occuring everywhere throughout the country? Let us pray God to raise up some such friend for the Seminary.

We are hearing hearty expressions of appoval from all sides, that the trustees have decided to go ahead with the Ladies Home, West Virginia will soon have at least one first class school for girls.

We present to our readers a new cut of the "Woman's Building" or "College Home." The drawing is not an exact picture, as it is impossible to obtain one until the structure stands before us. Yet it gives a fairly accurate idea as to how the building will appear when finished. It will compare favorably with the Main building in general appearance and in both external and internal finish; will have the modern conveniences, and will be a delightful home for the young ladies, who may be so fortunate as to occupy it. It will be ready for the opening of the fall term 1885.

Extra copies of this issue will be sent free on request wherever they are likely to do good for the school.

The Spring Term.

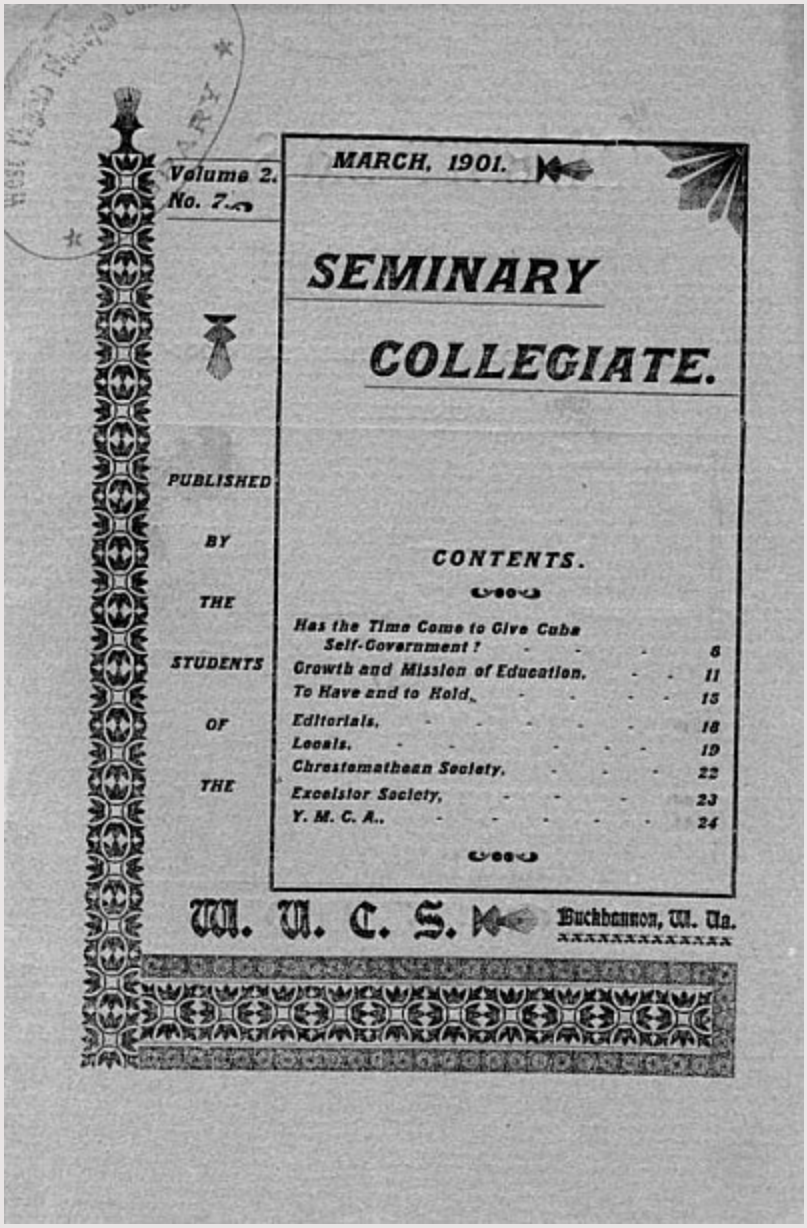
The Spring Term of fourteen weeks will open March 7th. Commencement June 18th. The prospects for a full attendance are fine, better than ever before. The enrollment will probably be much over 200. Already we have heard of a large number of new students, besides dozens of old ones to come in. The Seminary is constantly growing in favor with the people and its future is bright.

The two societies gave a joint program on the evening of Dec. 21st, being the last day preceding the winter vacation. It was followed by a social which was largely attended, and a very interesting occasion.

From 1893-1899, President Bennett Hutchinson wrote a newsletter called *The Seminary Herald,* which was basically intended to communicate with alumni and donors. On Pages In Time, a digital archive of West Virginia Wesleyan materials, you can find and read seven issues of this publication. These are the only ones in the library collection, and have been digitized for inclusion.

Pages In Time Tips Here

- Volume 1, #2 (1893-03)
- Volume 2, #1 (1894-01)
- Volume 2, #2 (1894-03)
- Volume 2, #3 (1894-10)
- Volume 2, #4 (1895-01)
- Volume 3, #3 (1895-11)
- Volume 3, #4 (1896-02)



Volume 2.
No. 7.

MARCH, 1901.

SEMINARY

COLLEGIATE.

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE

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W. U. C. S.

Buckhannon, W. Va.

In 1899-1900, two students began monthly publication of *The Seminary Collegiate*, which included student writings and orations, alumni updates, and campus news. There are forty-six issues of *The Seminary Collegiate* available on Pages In Time. Here are some examples.

- Volume 2, #3 (1900-05)
- Volume 2, #4 (1900-06)
- Volume 5, #1 (1903-09)
- Volume 5, #2 (1903-10)

Thomas W. Haught explains in *West Virginia Wesleyan College: The First Fifty Years*, that it appears that there were managing editors among the students for the first several years. These included:

- 1900
  - W. H. Franklin – who became Professor of English at Marshall College
  - C.H. King – who went into the ministry, serving in the Genesee Conference
- 1901-02
  - George C. Kellar – who became mayor of Flint, Michigan
  - Walter Barnes – who became Professor of English at New York University
- 1902-03
  - George C. Kellar
  - I. Emory Ash – who became Professor of Education at Ohio University at Athens
- 1904-05
  - C.E. Goodwin – who went into the ministry, serving in the West Virginia Conference
  - J.F. Throckmorton – who became an attorney in Parkersburg, WV

In 1904-05, J.F. Throckmorton approached the Faculty for assistance in selecting a new name for the publication, as *Seminary Collegiate* no longer reflected the name of the school.

The faculty, of course, appointed a committee which included Miss Jessie Trotter and Thomas W. Haught as well as editors Goodwin and Throckmorton. The name chosen was *The Pharos* after The Pharos of Alexandria, one of the seven wonders of the world, which was a lighthouse guiding ships into the harbor.

The Pharos of Alexandria

The Pharos

The staff of the Pharos, 1904.
Seated at left is Roy McCuskey, future college president (1931-1941)

In the fall of 1904, the newspaper continued as *The Pharos,* but the first issue of that title included on Pages In Time is Volume 6, #3 (1904-11).

Thanks to the generosity of Marjorie (McCullough) Modlin, class of 1957, the Friends of the Library were able to have these items digitized. At the moment, issues up into the 1970s have been included. Student interns are helping to keep this work moving forward. Marjorie gave those funds to honor the memory of her husband, Charlie Modlin, class of 1958, who was the editor of the Pharos during his time at WVWC. As it turns out, Charlie's father was the Editor-in-Chief of the Pharos in 1925-26 and his mother also served as editor in 1925. Dr. and Mrs. Modlin wrote about the Pharos in the 1920s in this article for the Sundial in March 1966.

Dr. H. Eugene and Mary (Sumner) Modlin

Murmurmontis

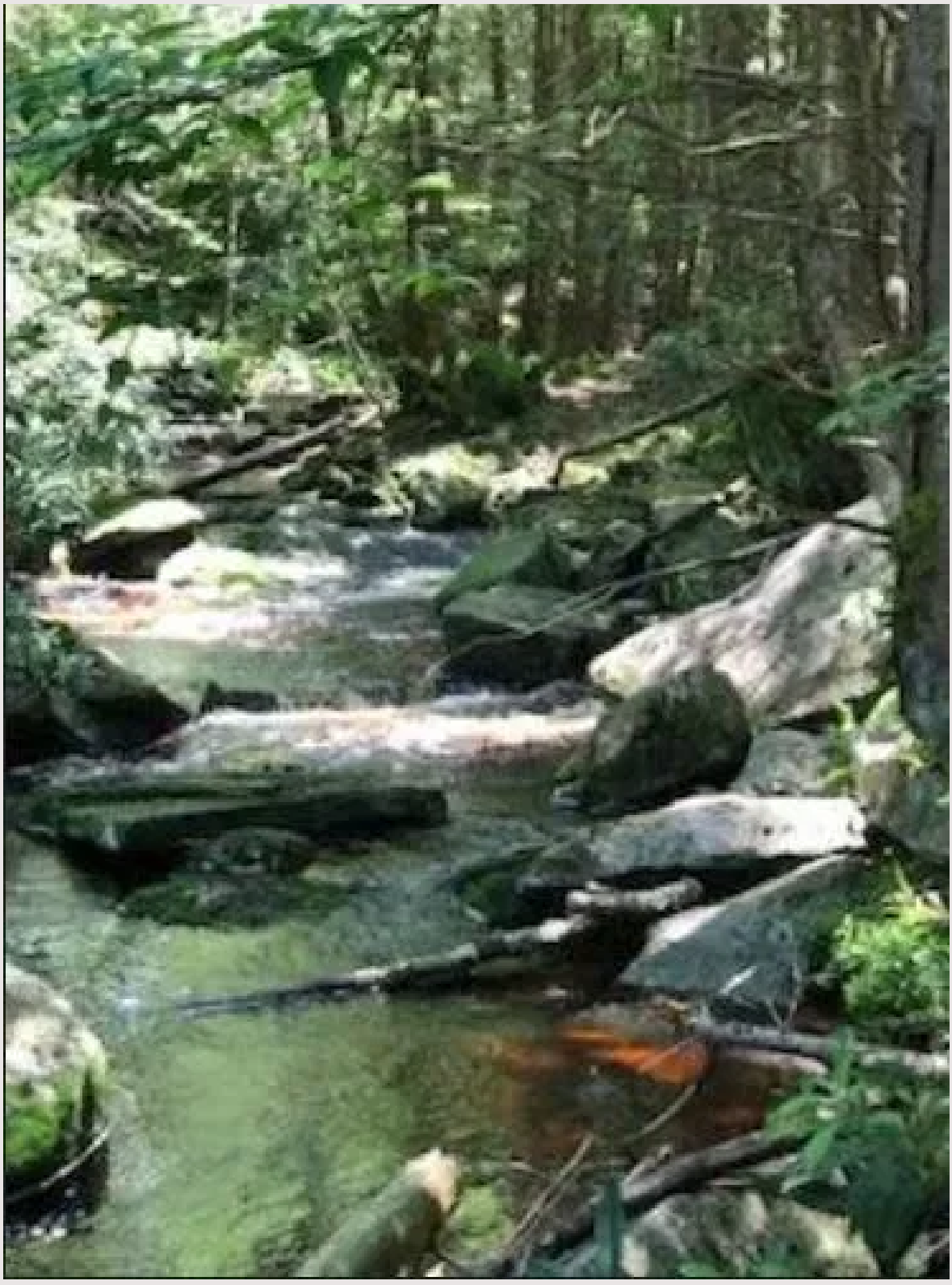
Another student-led publication, the first edition of the college yearbook, was the idea of the Junior Class (Seminary Class of 1904) and was published in May of 1903. Although most of them had never heard of such a publication outside of the larger institutions, Joe V. Gibson had heard of them and "dreamed dreams."

The Editor-In-Chief of the first Murmurmontis was Charles Aubrey Jones, and he wrote an article in the 1910 edition entitled, The Making of the First Murmurmontis. You can read the article here.

The First Edition of the Murmurmontis was a true masterpiece and a heroic venture. The name, Murmurmontis, was suggested by Frank B. Trotter and is Latin for "Voice of the Mountain." Very representative of both the school and of West Virginia.

All editions of the Murmurmontis from 1904-2010 are available on the Internet Archive, although there were a few years during the World Wars and the Great Depression where none was published. Internet Archive Tips Here.

These voices are still echoing through the mountains through the streams of time. These voices are still telling the stories and shining the light.



September 17 Passing Through

As we hurry along our busy way, we seldom stop to look left and right at fixtures along our path, but even many of the pillars and gates that we walk through have stories. Here are a few examples.

The Atkinson Gateway

On the left side of the photo below, you can see a brick pillar. This sign, a familiar sight to the students in the 1970s, looks quite strange to those who walk the campus today. It would also have looked quite strange to those from earlier years. It is interesting to see a place through the eyes of other times.

Corner of College Avenue and Meade Street 1975

Corner of College Avenue and Meade Street 2018

Zooming closer, we see that the inner pillars have a sign indicating they were erected by George W. Atkinson in honor of the Normal Class of 1913. The class had honored him by choosing his name for their own, and the feeling was evidently mutual.

Atkinson Normal Seniors

OFFICERS

F. Ridley Anderson ..... President
Gladys Claire Pierce ..... Vice President
Jessie Coffman ..... Secretary
Blanche Clinton ..... Treasurer

Many classes have gone from Wesleyan, and doubtless many more will follow. The ones that have left us have been named for the noblest men and women that the College has known. The Normal Class of Nineteen Hundred and Thirteen has chosen for its own, the name of a man whom the state of West Virginia recognizes as one of her greatest and most beloved citizens. It is therefore with honor and respect that we dedicate this page to our friend and counsellor, Hon. George Wesley Atkinson of Washington D. C.

Mr. Atkinson has been well known in legal circles for many years, is an author and editor of no mean repute, was the successful Governor of the state from 1897 to 1901 and is at present a member of the Court of Claims at the Nation's Capitol.

He has long been a promoter and benefactor of education, is the graduate of several of the best colleges and universities, the bearer of honorary degrees, and has been a member of the board of trustees of many educational institutions, West Virginia Wesleyan among the number. Being a true friend of the College, no one better could be found for whom to name the greatest Normal Class that Wesleyan has ever produced. We desire that our future be made more successful and our lives broader through the thought that we belong to the Class that has for its advisor, one who is recognized as the Friend of Men.

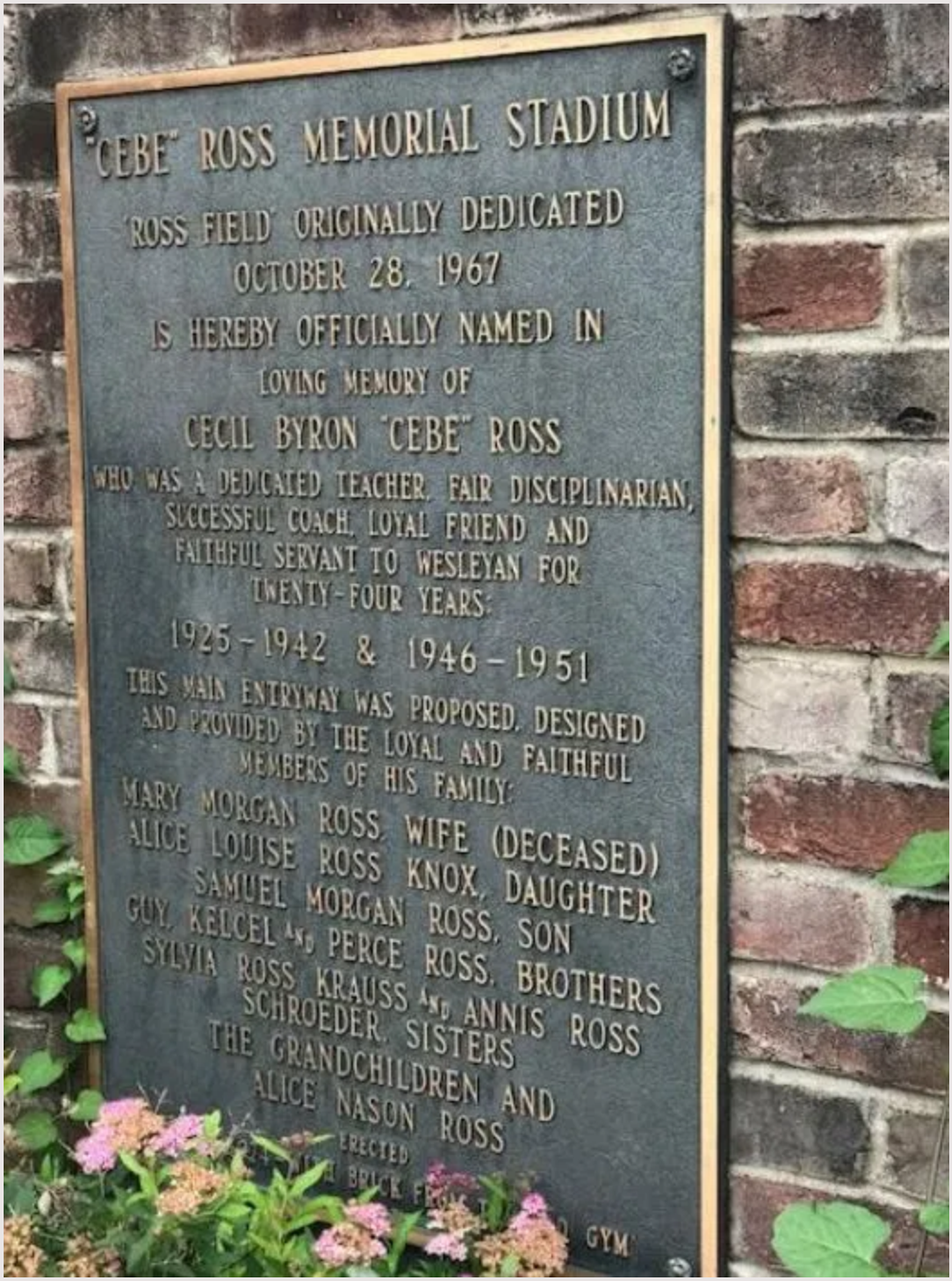
Editor's Note: *This is the very same George W. Atkinson for whom Atkinson Chapel was named in 1922.*

College Avenue Gate Near McCuskey Hall

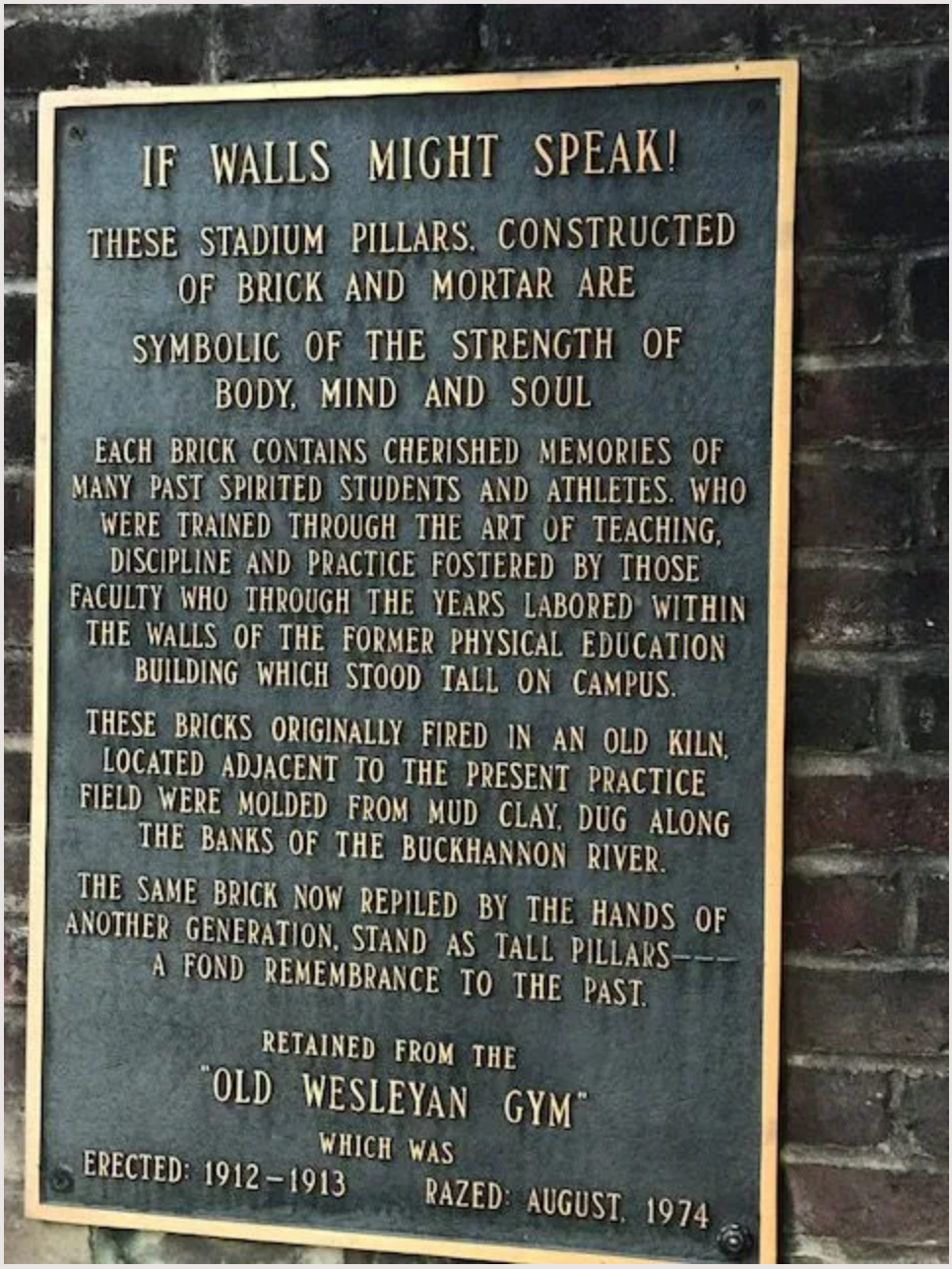
Another interesting set of pillars is at the end of Main Street as it intersects College Avenue. This set has no official name that I am aware of, but it did have a very specific purpose, to keep motorcars from running onto the campus in 1921. Apparently this was a serious problem, and so a chain had to to be attached to the pillars – you can still see where the chain was attached.

Main entrance to Ross Field

As you approach the turnstile gates to enter Cebe Ross Memorial Field, there are two brick ticket booths. These each have signs and pillars off to the side which are full of history. Built from bricks that were saved when the Old Gym was razed in 1974, they each bear informational signage as well.


"CEBE" ROSS MEMORIAL STADIUM
"ROSS FIELD" ORIGINALLY DEDICATED
OCTOBER 28, 1967
IS HEREBY OFFICIALLY NAMED IN
LOVING MEMORY OF
CECIL BYRON "CEBE" ROSS
WHO WAS A DEDICATED TEACHER, FAIR DISCIPLINARIAN,
SUCCESSFUL COACH, LOYAL FRIEND AND
FAITHFUL SERVANT TO WESLEYAN FOR
TWENTY-FOUR YEARS:
1925-1942 & 1946-1951
THIS MAIN ENTRYWAY WAS PROPOSED, DESIGNED
AND PROVIDED BY THE LOYAL AND FAITHFUL
MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY:
MARY MORGAN ROSS, WIFE (DECEASED)
ALICE LOUISE ROSS KNOX, DAUGHTER
SAMUEL MORGAN ROSS, SON
GUY, KELCEL AND PERCE ROSS, BROTHERS
SYLVIA ROSS KRAUSS AND ANNIS ROSS
SCHROEDER, SISTERS
THE GRANDCHILDREN AND
ALICE NASON ROSS
ERECTED
GYM

As we pass through pillars and gates, and as we pass through our lives, we would do well to notice the things Which Give us insight into the rich heritage all around us. If Walls Might Speak!


IF WALLS MIGHT SPEAK!
THESE STADIUM PILLARS, CONSTRUCTED OF BRICK AND MORTAR ARE
SYMBOLIC OF THE STRENGTH OF BODY, MIND AND SOUL
EACH BRICK CONTAINS CHERISHED MEMORIES OF MANY PAST SPIRITED STUDENTS AND ATHLETES, WHO WERE TRAINED THROUGH THE ART OF TEACHING, DISCIPLINE AND PRACTICE FOSTERED BY THOSE FACULTY WHO THROUGH THE YEARS LABORED WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE FORMER PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING WHICH STOOD TALL ON CAMPUS.
THESE BRICKS ORIGINALLY FIRED IN AN OLD KILN, LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE PRESENT PRACTICE FIELD WERE MOLDED FROM MUD CLAY, DUG ALONG THE BANKS OF THE BUCKHANNON RIVER.
THE SAME BRICK NOW REPILED BY THE HANDS OF ANOTHER GENERATION, STAND AS TALL PILLARS--- A FOND REMEMBRANCE TO THE PAST.
RETAINED FROM THE
"OLD WESLEYAN GYM"
WHICH WAS
ERECTED: 1912–1913
RAZED: AUGUST, 1974

September 24 The Apostles

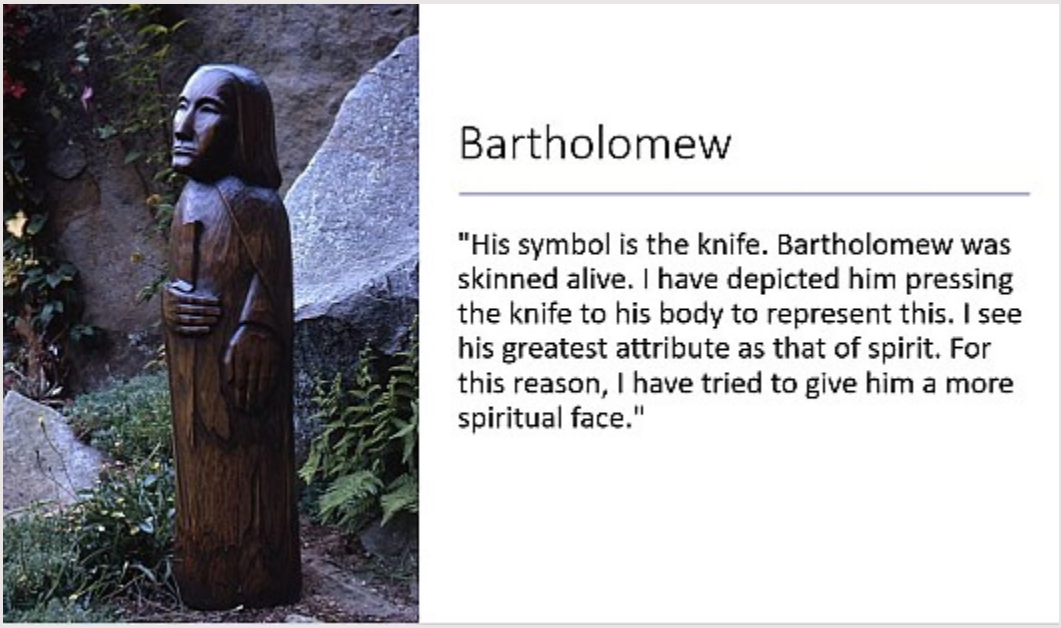
They’ve seen it all for more than half a century.

The Twelve Apostles standing guard at the back of the sanctuary in Wesley Chapel have been silent witnesses to the life of the West Virginia Wesleyan Community year after year.

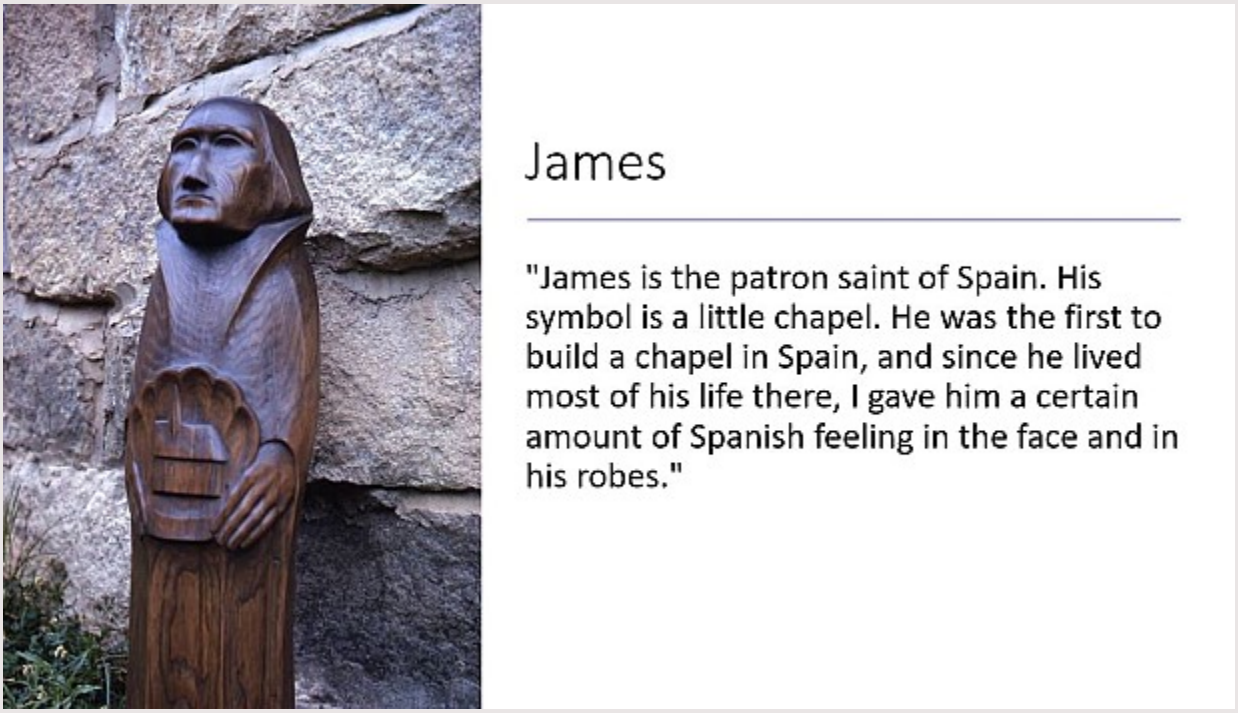
Andrew

"Andrew carried the fish in his left hand and wears the St. Andrew's Cross on his bosom. I tried to work a symbol into each of the apostles, and his symbol is the cross. He was crucified on the X-shaped cross since he felt unworthy to die like his master. Andrew was the introducer of the apostles. It was he who brought forth the boy with his basket of fishes which Christ converted into food for five thousand."

Students have come and gone. They have made beautiful music in Wesley Chapel, won many awards, and shown great enthusiasm for events like Spring Sing. They have been challenged by powerful speakers and celebrated the Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols.


Bartholomew
"His symbol is the knife. Bartholomew was skinned alive. I have depicted him pressing the knife to his body to represent this. I see his greatest attribute as that of spirit. For this reason, I have tried to give him a more spiritual face."

Faculty have come and gone. They have marched in procession for countless convocations. They have given speeches and led prayers.


James
"James is the patron saint of Spain. His symbol is a little chapel. He was the first to build a chapel in Spain, and since he lived most of his life there, I gave him a certain amount of Spanish feeling in the face and in his robes."

The Alma Mater and My Home Among the Hills have been sung with great gusto hundreds of times. The Orange Line Poem has been read as alumni have come back to celebrate their time at Wesleyan. The apostles have been listening.

James the Less

"James the Less was probably the most educated of the apostles. He studied law. His symbol is the scroll to represent the law and order for which he stands. He was also the first bishop of Jerusalem."

And the Apostles have been there for all of it.

John

"John's symbol is the chalice with the serpent. Legend tells us that John's enemies tried once to poison him by putting a potion in a cup. When John was about to drink, he performed the sign of the cross over the chalice, and the poison escaped in the form of a snake."

Carved from chestnut wood by Upshur County artist, Wolfgang Flor, these Silent Sentinals are full of meaning and personality. And yet, many have never noticed them or taken time to read the deep thoughts of Wolfgang Flor.

Judas

"This is Judas. His head is turned so that he will be the only one facing away from the rest. He is clutching his money bag to his heart. He is sorry and sad. He does not wear the expression of an evil man. In my opinion, he could not have hung himself if there was not some good in him. He could not bear what he had done."

Wolfgang Flor was 38 years old when he was commissioned by West Virginia Wesleyan College to carve the apostles.

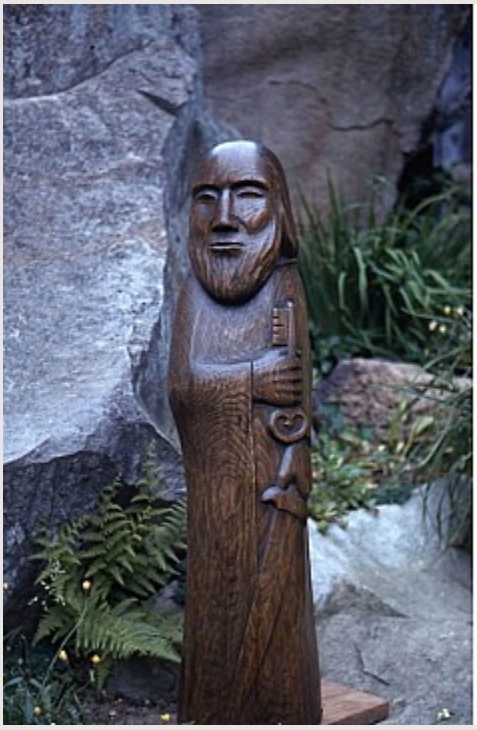
Jude

"This is St. Jude. His symbol is the boat. He is the one apostle who traveled most. He traveled to different countries preaching the gospel. In the design I tried to reflect the feeling of the sails and the wind in his robes."

A native of Silesia, who escaped from Nazi Germany during World War II, Flor settled in rural Upshur County with his family. When given this huge task, he studied several books about the apostles and also consulted with Dr. Sidney T. Davis (Class of 1936 and The Dean of the Chapel) to find out more about the personalities and histories of each of the twelve. The words included with these photos are those of Wolfgang Flor.

Matthew

"Matthew was the writer of the gospel. I have given to him the book to symbolize this and in his left hand, I gave him an empty moneybag representing his former profession as a tax collector."



Peter

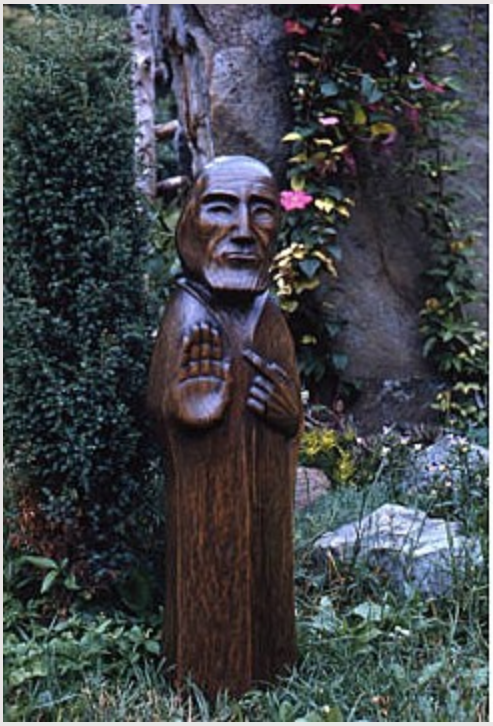
"This is Peter, the boss of them all. He probably has a more dominant face than any of the others. His symbol is a key. The key represents the key to heaven. In his left hand he holds a sword reminding all who look at him of the incident when he cut the soldier's ear off, when the soldier dared to threaten Christ in the garden. I have tried to emphasize the heavenly might over the earthly might by having Peter point the key toward heaven and the sword downward."

Philip

"Philip's symbol is the cross. He worked with the cross all his life. Later when he was to be crucified, he requested that he be crucified upside down, because he did not feel worthy to die in the same position as Christ. Philip has the most peaceful face of all the apostles. To me, Philip is the ideal man of good."

Simon

"His symbol is the saw. Most think I have used the saw to symbolize the fact that he was a carpenter, but this is not so. He was cut to pieces with a saw. Simon comes out of a background of the Jewish sect, the Zealots. Since he is the apostle who came from a different background I have given him a robe over his head to symbolize this."



Thomas

"This is doubting Thomas. I picked the words from the scripture where it says, 'Show me the hand and I will believe.' His face expresses the most doubt of all of them. He lifts an eyebrow. He points his finger to himself with a doubt saying, 'Not me. I am not ready to believe everything.'"

Woflgang Flor died on December 2, 2017. But, his work lives on. Although he is a very well-known artist beyond West Virginia Wesleyan, his work has a very special place on our campus. He captured not only the apostles, but the very nature of what the college values.

Toward the end of his life, a new piece was placed at the front of the santuary. It is the Family Tree. He told President Pamela Balch that it felt like closure for him to know that his work would go on living in Wesley Chapel.

The Family Tree

He explains it in this way. "The girl in the lower right corner has her palm turned outward symbolizing her pending departure from this family to start her own. Her younger brother in the lower left corner is clinging on to the family tree with both arms. The parents in the upper right corner are holding on to each other while also holding on to the family tree. In the upper left corner, grandfather's old hand symbolizes his struggle to hold on to the family as he slips away."

The Miser and Poverty

The Flor Family has recently located two other pieces of Wolfgang's work – on loan to the college – on the other side of the front of Wesley Chapel.

"On the left is the "Miser." His hunched posture and turned head symbolize his greed and his indifference as he represents the 1% of the population of the world that has 99% of the wealth, symbolized by the bag of coins. His out-turned hand indicates his feeling that the world should leave him alone. After all he is not going to accept it as his problem."

The woman on the right is called "Poverty." She represents the result of this imbalance of wealth. Her upturned face and folded hands portray her prayers for relief. She stands close to her daughter in an attempt to protect her from the injustices of the world. Of course, her under-nourished daughter represents all of the starving people in the world as she holds the empty place while we count her ribs."

Yes, Wolfgang Flor's work is the essence of West Virginia Wesleyan College. United Methodist heritage and commitment to Social Justice are on display.

Click here to read more about Wolfgang Flor.

October 1 Pioneers & Founders

Dear Pioneers,

Your bravery in coming across the Allegheny Mountains in the 1700s is hard for us to comprehend. We understand from reading our history that you were adventurous, social minded and religious. Many of you were immigrants.The religious among you included our Methodist Founders.

Dear Founders,

Thank you for having the vision, courage and determination to create a college. For having a dream which has turned into our present reality. You were determined and creative and generous. It was not an easy task!

Some of you fought or were chaplains in the Union Army, and one of you was a member of the Virginia Legislature and voted to secede from the Union – and fought with Stonewall Jackson's troops throughout the war. And yet, in the aftermath of that war you were able to join together in this common cause.

You were business leaders, judges, lawyers, pastors, and legislators who helped to create the new state of West Virginia. In 1890, there were sixteen of you – half of you were Methodist Clergy and half Methodist Laymen, and you were all leaders in the Methodist Conference.

Founders

The Lay Members of the Board of Trustees in 1890 included:

John Cambridge Bardall

- Trustee from 1887-1915
- He lived in Moundsville, WV and was a manufacturer of leather goods and brooms.
- He ran one of the largest broom companies in the country at the time.

John Adams Barnes

- Trustee from 1885-1930, and Secretary of the Board from 1894-1921
- He lived in Weston, WV, and served on the site location committee
- Mr. Barnes was the Director of Citizen's Bank of Weston

Benjamin Franklin Martin

- Trustee in 1890-94, and Treasurer of the Board
- One of the framers of the West Virginia Constitution
- He was a delegate to the General Conference in 1876
- And, served in U.S. House of Representatives from 1877-81

Samuel P. McCormick

- Trustee 1887-89 (he died before school officially opened)
- He had served in the Army of the Potomac
- After the war, he was a lawyer and prosecuting attorney
- In 1880, delegate to the Republican National Convention

Henry C. McWhorter

- Trustee from 1885-1916 and President of the Board from 1898-1913
- He was a Judge, and lived in Charleston, WV

Alex M. Poundstone

- Trustee from 1885-1919
- He served as a Captain in the Federal Army
- A lawyer in Buckhannon, WV
- West Virginia Legislature 1872-79
- Prosecuting Attorney in Upshur County 1886-1900

William Alexander Wilson

- Trustee 1890
- Lived in Wheeling, WV
- Manufacturing and Businessman

Samuel Woods

- Trustee 1887-1897, Chairman of the Board 1887-1897
- Was a member of the Virginia Legislature when they voted to secede from the Union
- He voted for secession, and fought with Stonewall Jackson's unit
- However, after the war, he came back to Barbour County and resumed his Law Practice
- He was a Framer of the West Virginia Constitution in 1871

The Clergy Members of the Board of Trustees in 1890 included:

H.J. Boatman	J.A. Fullerton	L.H. Jordan	A.J. Lyda	E.H. Orwen	J.W. Reger	A.B. Rohrbough	L.L. Stewart	W.R. White
Served: 1885-1894	Served: 1885-1898 Born in Belfast, Ireland 1850 Editor of Methodist Episcopal Times	Served: 1885-1899	Served: 1884-1897 Charter Member of the West Virginia Conference Chaplain in Third Virginia Volunteers; U.S. Army President of the Board 1884-1887	Served: 1885-1891 Secretary of the Board, 1890	Served: 1886-1893 Circuit Riding Preacher Chaplain of the 7th West Virginia Infantry	Served: 1886-1896 Preacher, teacher, and newspaper-man Superintendent of public schools for two years in 1870s in Buckhannon	Served: 1884-1894 General Missionary Committee 1891-92 Elected to General Conference in 1892	Served: 1886-1894 1st State Superintendent of Free Schools

There is an account of the founding of the college in 1890 by one of those who was a participant and leader throughout that process. Captain A.M. Poundstone wrote this account for publication in the 1914 Murmurmontis, some 24 years later.

An Account of the Founding of Wesleyan

By Capt. A. M. Poundstone

In the year of 1885 the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church had its annual session, for the purpose of carrying out the long wished for and intended design to establish an institution of learning of this state within the bounds of the conference, appointed a Board of Trustees consisting of eight ministers and eight laymen. The members of this board were as follows: A. J. Byda, L. H. Jordan; J. A. Fullerton: Samuel Steele, E. H. Owen, L. L. Stewart, H. J. Boatman and A. B. Rohrbough. The laymen were H. C. McWhorter, H. K. List, J. C. McGrew, A. M. Poundstone, B. F. Martin, Samuel Woods, Henry Logan and Nathan Goff Sr. Rev. Samuel Steele died in 1886 and Rev. John W. Reger was chosen in his place. Nathan Goff, Sr. died the same year and John A. Barnes was chosen in his place.

The Board of Trustees in order to carry out the behest of the Conference proceeded to secure a location, and perform all other duties incumbent on them in the execution of their trust. It was determined that a majority of the sixteen members of the board would be required to make a location. The places competing were as follows: Clarksburg, Grafton, Kingwood, Phillippi, Parkersburg, Salem, Bridgeport; Weston; Elizabeth and Buckhannon. Meetings of the Board were held at various places and careful and impartial consideration was given to the propositions and arguments of the several gentlemen representing each locality touching the sites offered, number of acres in each site and the amount of money which would be contributed. Finally at a meeting held at Phillippi on July 14, 1887, Buckhannon received a majority of the sixteen members of the Board, which action was thereupon made unanimous and Buckhannon duly to be the location for the institution.

The name adopted for the institution was The West Virginia Conference Seminary of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was made a corporation under and by virtue of the provision of chapter 57 of the Code of West Virginia, the corporate name to be "The Board of Trustees of the West Virginia Conference Seminary." The Board held a meeting at Buckhannon on the 29th day of August, 1887, and after a careful examination of the sites offered in and near the town, purchased forty-three acres, one rood and thirteen square poles of Levi Leonard at the price of $5,551.86. Whereupon Levi Leonard and wife conveyed said land to the Board with covenants of general warranty.

The location having been secured, the Trustees proceeded to have the necessary buildings constructed and for that purpose procured the services of a competent architect, who prepared plans and specifications for the Main Building, and contracted with mechanics for the foundation and superstruction thereof. In addition to the funds then already secured and promised by subscriptions, the Board in order to be prepared to meet the demands for construction of the building, ordered the preparation and issuance of 150 coupon bonds each for $100.00, amounting to $15000 payable in ten years from and after the first day of January, 1889, with interest thereon at six per cent per annum, payable annually, to secure the payment whereof a deed of trust lien was placed upon the forty-three acres, one rood, and thirteen square poles of land. The bonds were issued and all disposed of at par. The buildings were constructed and ready for occupancy by

the first of September 1890. The cost of the building exclusive of heating apparatus and furniture was $27,499. On the third day of September 1890 the school was opened with Rev. B. W. Hutchinson as President and Frank B. Trotter, J. F. Ogden and Miss Emma B. Tavener as teachers. The enrollment the first term consisted of seventy students, which increased during the first year to two hundred and one. On the third day of October following the opening of the school, the Conference, then in session at Weston, came in a body to Buckhannon and the building was dedicated by Bishop Cyrus D. Foss. Thus was the institution founded, and from its inception has been a success. Although it was at first a Seminary, it had a high curriculum class of study for a school of that nature. The design from the start having been to transform it into a college with the usual full College Courses of Study, this was accomplished several years ago.

The only serious drawback, which has been encountered, was the loss by fire of the main building, on the 4th day of February 1905, one of the coldest days of the year. It must be conceded that the new building erected in its place is much better adapted for the purpose of the school than the old one. It has not been the intention of the writer to extend this sketch, only incidentally, farther than the first year of the school or to refer to the management thereof by the presidents or faculties. The success of the school speaks louder than mere words of the ability and pains-taking care of those who have been in charge. While the school has been, and is, under the control of the Methodist Episcopal Church, it is by no means sectarian. Members of other churches have almost invariably been found in the faculty, and the student body has come from the various Christian denominations including Roman Catholics. Its high ideal is to be a Christian College, and along with intellectual culture to inculcate the matchless and incomparable teachings of the meek and lowly Nazarene.

It is a significant reminder of the transitory nature of this earthy life, that of the original sixteen trustees and those appointed to fill vacancies which occurred therein, all, except Judge H. C. McWhorter, John Barnes and A. M. Poundstone have gone to their Eternal Home, and we can confidently say of them in the language which St. John, The Divine, was directed to write, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

NOTE.—Capt. A. M. Poundstone and Mr. John A. Barnes are the only living members of the original sixteen trustees, Judge Henry C. McWhorter having died April 15, 1913, since this sketch was written.

A. M. POUNDSTONE, ESQ.

Ever since that time, there have been leaders carrying on the work of the school and helping the school to grow into what you had envisioned – or maybe even more than you could have possibly imagined. These Giants (Trustees, Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Students) have lived and worked and taught and studied here in this place thanks to you. You have changed and enriched lives.

We will salute you in Wesley Chapel during the Founders Day Convocation.

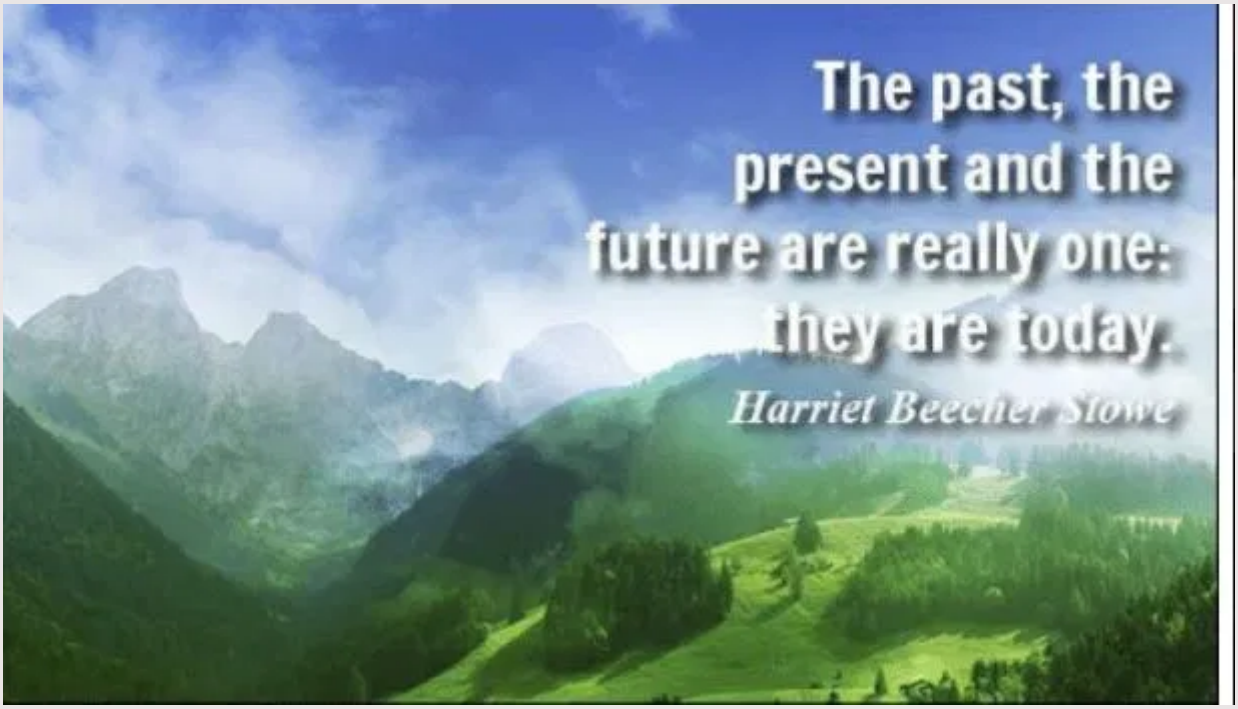
Because of you we exist and learn

Because of what we learn, we grow stronger and smarter

Because we are stronger and smarter,
we are able to make an impact for good in the world

Love,

Your school in 2018



October 8 The Orange Line

This year as the Orange Line passed my seat during the Founders Day Convocation, I saw many familiar faces. My parents, spouse, former colleagues, former classmates, former students, and many friends who have been part of my life at various times and in various places.

Friday evening we enjoyed visiting with my reunion class at the Decades Reception. These ladies have been friends since the fall of 1974 when we all lived on the 3rd floor of McCuskey together as freshmen. (The photo includes a few significant others we have picked up along life's way.)

We had a great time telling stories and laughing and sharing about the many things we have done and accomplished in the 40 years since our graduation from WVWC.

We had a good laugh about some of our favorite WVWC memories.....box walking in the fall leaves while singing Pumpkin Carols, Campus Pizza deliveries when we couldn't find a ride clear out to Hills Plaza to the old Pizza Hut. And, of course, the time my roommate signed me up for the bowling team as a joke, only to discover that the joke was on us because unless I actually did sign up they wouldn't have enough for a team. And homecoming parades and floats like this one were such fun.

Also at the Decades Reception my husband and I ran across some friends who were attending their very first class reunion – his 50th – and were able to catch up on the news since we last saw them more than a dozen years ago.

This is the very nature of the Orange Line.
That line weaves throughout our lives and ties us all together.

One of my students in my Legacy of Dreamers and Giants class (a future member of the Orange Line) turned in an assignment last week in which she referenced a copy of the Sundial in 1973. In that issue was also an article entitled *And they Called it Wesleyan* written by Jamie Wellman.

The article was about college history (and had been researched in many of the same places I am finding such information now). It turns out that she was a member of the class of 1973 – which was having a reunion this year as well. So, I stood by as the class of 1973 had their reunion photo taken at the Decades Reception. and I found her! I told her that I had read her articles, and about DreamersAndGiants. We found that we had much in common. You can read her articles here.

And they Called it Wesleyan, part 1, J. Wellman (Pharos 9-26-1973, p. 8)
From the Roaring 20's til Now, by Jamie Wellman (Pharos 10-3-1973, p.12)

Saturday evening I watched one of my former students (a member of the class of 2019) perform in the wonderful play at the Virginia Thomas Law Center for the Performing Arts.

Sunday morning, I went to chapel to hear Rev. Douglas Miller, Class of 1988 (and classmate and theater contemporary of my sister and brother-in-law) give a wonderful sermon. His parents, also alumni, were there and it turned out that they were friends with my parents. And HER mother was a graduate of the Class of 1923 and had been a Chemistry major studying with Dr. Nicholas Hyma. She was one of the first members of the Benzine Ring.

Alpha Psi Omega

All in all, the Orange Line was winding around and around my heart all weekend. These were but a few examples. All around me the same was happening to person after person.

There is a beautiful poem about the Orange Line written by Charles K. Dick. Although Charlie was not a graduate of WVWC himself, he captured the spirit of the college beautifully. He was Assistant Director of Marketing and Communication from 1998-2000 when he wrote the poem.

The Founders Day Program had this to say about the Orange Line Poem:

Ever since 1890, students have entered West Virginia Wesleyan College, where their minds were challenged, their talents nurtured and their hearts inspired. As they completed their studies, they moved on to share their knowledge, experience and values in new settings. Former Wesleyan students have carried the spirit and substance of the College into the global community and into almost every form of human endeavor. Wesleyan's alumni have formed a constant connection between the College and the world beyond – and both College and world have been strengthened. It is appropriate on the celebration of Wesleyan's Founders Day that the heritage of the College be symbolized as a line of former students who represent more than 14,000 alumni.

The Orange Line

I am the orange line – My beginning was long ago

I have no end – I am perpetual

My source is in the West Virginia hills

My reach embraces the world

I am in America's small towns – I am in her great cities

I cross the seas

I grow

2018

I am your warm, enduring memories

I am your shared experiences

I am your friends, your teachers

I am your link to the past

I am your dreams for the future

Wherever you are, there too, am I

I am you – You are Me

We — are the orange line

The DreamersAndGiants project celebrates those in the Orange Line. One of our first semester students in my class this fall put it beautifully. Hannah said, “With DreamersAndGiants, you are connecting generations of Bobcats living and dead.” Wish I had thought to put it just that way.

October 15 In Their Footsteps

Sometimes we can't see them.....

If you walk up the front steps to Wesley Chapel, you cross some.

At first glance, you might assume that you are seeing the footprints of John Wesley. But, if you look past the statue and focus in on the steps which lead to the door of the chapel, you will see another name.

In Memoriam, Edward L. Boetticher
Let us unite the two so long divided, knowledge and vital piety, John Wesley

We may know that John Wesley was the founder of Methodism. He, and the beautiful statue of him on the WVWC campus, will be the topic of another blog another day. But who in the world is Edward L. Boetticher?

Edward L. Boetticher, Class of 1926

Edward was very active on campus. He also graduated in only three years!

Edward's campus activities included:

- As a member and First Vice President of Alpha Gamma Phi Fraternity (forerunner of Kappa Alpha Fraternity), Edward lived in the house at 49 South Florida. Faculty advisers and hosts were Nicholas Hyma and Edgar Sorton. Housemother was Mrs. Maude Mick.
- Edward was a member of the Chrestomathaean Literary Society, and the Vice President of the Cutshall Literary Society in 1926. (This organization was reorganized into an Honorary Fraternity for students with high academic achievement and Boetticher was the President during the second semester 1926-27.)
- Lyceum Course Manager 1925, 1926
- Men's Glee Club, Treasurer 1925; President 1924; Vice President 1925-26
- Ministerial Association member. This group prepared for the task of ministry and aided each other in deepening their own spiritual lives.
- Murmurmontis Business Manager, 1925
- Pharos Reporter, 1924
- Student Council
- Wesleyan Players, Treasurer 1926
- Y.M.C.A.

His education did not stop at that time.

- 1926 West Virginia Wesleyan College, A.B.
- 1929 Boston University, S.T.B.
- 1930 University of Pittsburgh, M.A.
- 1942 West Virginia Wesleyan College, Hon. DD

Edward met his future wife, Gayzelle Rusk (College Class of 1925), while at Wesleyan. She was a member of many of the same organizations. She also served as a school teacher after graduating with her degree from the Normal School in 1922.

Together they shared a life of ministry.
Edward's ministerial footprints included:

- Licensed to Preach 1924
- 1925-26 Conway/Glenfield
- 1926-27 In School
- 1926 Admitted on Trial Methodist Episcopal Pittsburgh Conference
- 1928 Full Member of Methodist Episcopal Pittsburgh Conference
- 1928 Ordained Deacon
- 1928-31 Pittsburgh: McCandless Avenue
- 1929 Ordained Elder
- 1931-35 Pittsburgh: Beechview
- 1935-40 Monessen: First
- 1940-56 New Kensington: First
- 1956-62 Superintendent: Blairsville District
- 1962 Member Methodist Western Pennsylvania Conference at Merger
- 1962-December 15, 1963 Executive Secretary: Conference Board of Missions/Church Extension

From 1949-1965, Edward served as a Trustee at West Virginia Wesleyan College. His love for the school and the church combined to make him a very active trustee. Earlier catalogs listed the committees on which the Trustees served. Edward's list included:

- Alumni Relations 1954-1959
- Executive 1959-1960
- History, Archives and Fine Arts 1956-1959
- Instruction 1949-1952
- Policy and Planning 1955-1956; 1957-1959
- Religion 1955-1957

Edward died on December 15, 1963 just as the campus was experiencing great growth. His widow, Gayzelle, honored him by providing memorials in a few different areas. This plaque, just inside the door of the Meditation Chapel, indicates that Gayzelle Rusk Boetticher established the marble altar in Edward's memory. There was considerable work and reinforcement of the floors needed for that project.

As mentioned above, Edward's name is carved into the very steps leading to the front door of Wesley Chapel, and includes a quote from John Wesley about the importance of linking education and spiritual matters — both of which were extremely important to Edward as well as to John Wesley.

Curiosity about his family background led Edward to Washington, D.C. in 1938 to meet with Lt. General Frederick Von Boetticher, the German military attache. This meeting led to wonderful conversations and a visit with long lost cousins in Germany after World War II was concluded.

At one such visit, in 1952, Edward was presented with the Von Boetticher Crucifix. This item, dating from about 1356, had been passed down through the generations of the family from that time forward. There had always been at least one in each generation to go into the ministry. To read more about this amazing artifact, click here.

Dr. Boetticher returned from his European travels with the crucifix. It remained in his home until his death in 1963 when his widow, Mrs. Gayzelle Rusk Boetticher, decided that it more appropriately should be placed in the new chapel of the couple's beloved alma mater.

Edward L. Boetticher was a

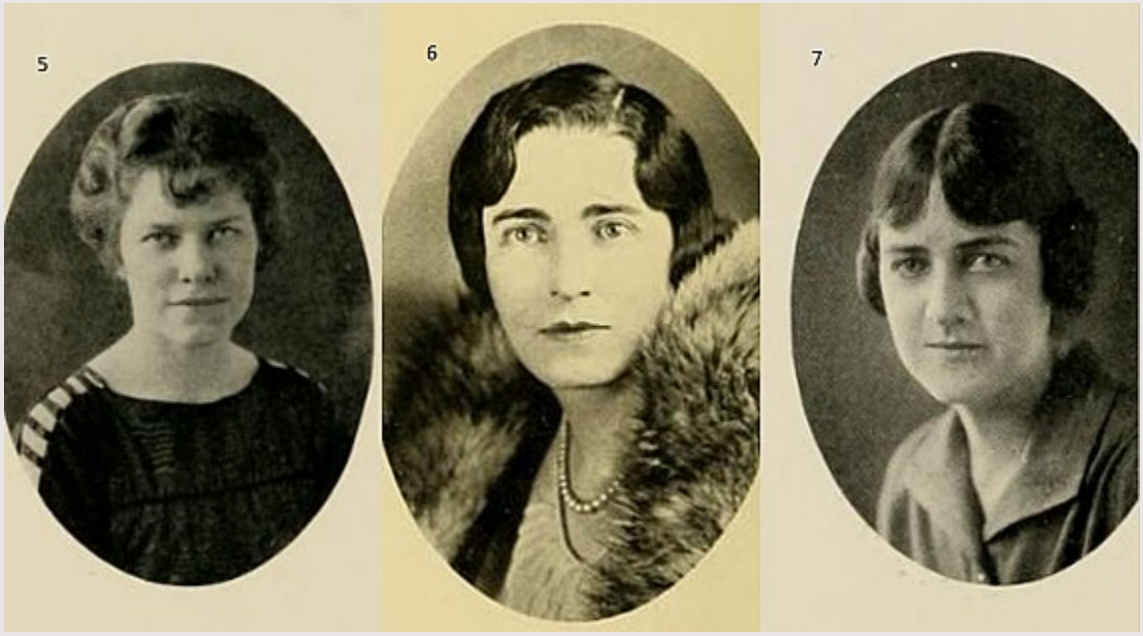
- follower of Christ
- student of John Wesley
- student and alumus and trustee of West Virginia Wesleyan College
- seeker of his family footsteps

And we follow in his footsteps
Large Footsteps

October 22 Ladies of Leadership

The eyes. Looking at these ladies, you can tell several things. They were intelligent, they were determined, and they were going to succeed.

1. Clara Brooks Fishpaugh (Education 1925-1930)
2. Mrs. Camp Wellington Foltz (Assistant Instructor in Piano, 1926)
3. Ruth M. Raw (English Composition, 1925-1930)
4. Rachel Ogden (Dean of Women 1926-1932; Professor of Modern Languages 1926-1947)



5. Lois Murrel McCloskey (Home Economics 1922-29)
6. Alice Nason Ross (Physical Education for Women 1922-41; Coached Basketball and Field Hockey)
7. Elenore Hancher (Biology 1926-28)

Buckhannon Branch of AAUW

The Wesleyan Pharos

VOLUME XXXVIII. NO. 33. WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, BUCKHANNON, W. VA. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1931

Wesleyan Women Members Of A. A. U. W.

In 1928, these seven ladies and others gathered to organize the Buckhannon Branch of the Association of American University Women (A.A.U.W.) The seven pictured here all taught at Wesleyan. Others in the group were the wives of professors and other professional members of the community. All had college degrees from colleges and universities whose graduates had been approved for membership in this national society. Schools such as Columbia University, Pennsylvania State University, Northwestern University, Johns Hopkins University, Ohio Wesleyan, and Allegheny College.

The first president was Rachel Ogden from 1928-30; and again from 1933-35.

Other Charter Members included: Mrs. W.H. (Rachel) Barlow, Martha Bonar, Mrs. Hyre D. Clark, Marcia Mae Glauner, Mrs. O. Earle (Myrtle) Karickhoff, and Virginia Shinn.

The AAUW website states that:

“AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.”

The Buckhannon Branch has been doing just that for 90 of those years. The list of members reads like a Who’s Who of West Virginia Wesleyan College and of Buckhannon. These women have been a reflection of our community and an inspiration to it.

Besides the AAUW, these Charter Members of the Buckhannon Branch were active on campus and leaders of that community as well. Among the things they were involved with were:

- Tallagewe (A democratic organization for women. The name was derived from an Indian word meaning “endless” or “everlasting”)
- Y.W.C.A. (Open to all women. “To further the interest in religious relationships among women of the college.”)
- Student Volunteers (For men and women, “To bring together the students of Wesleyan College who are interested in promoting and living Christian lives.”)
- Pan American Chain (1941) was organized by Rachel Ogden, an expert in South American Cultures. As was mentioned in the 1943 Murmurmontis, “Mrs. Ogden was interested not only in languages but also in the welfare of those who speak them.”
- Rachel Ogden’s committee work on campus included service on the Faculty Committee: Fraternity 1927-1929; Faculty Committee: Fraternity-Sorority 1929-1931. As the Greek organizations were beginning to be developed on campus, I think that Rachel Ogden’s voice was heard in those discussions.

Rachel Ogden arrived on Wesleyan's campus on February 1, 1926 to become the Dean of Women. She had heard of the wonderful leadership among women on this campus when she was a student at Allegheny College. While doing her graduate work at Columbia University, she had met alumni and faculty members from here. She admired the work of the previous Dean of Women, Florence Stemple (also from Columbia University.)

DEAN OF WOMEN HOPES TO DEVELOP INDIVIDUAL WOMEN

Dean Ogden to Carry Out Work Planned by Mrs. Stemple Before She Left.

When asked her plans for Wesleyan, Dean Ogden stated that she intended to carry out Dean Stemple's ideas and ideals to the best of her ability. One of the most outstanding of these ideals being that of developing a distinct type of woman, one that might be recognized any where as a West Virginia Wesleyan woman. "This particular type of woman will be in direct contrast to some of the very much sophisticated women of a few colleges. The typical Wesleyan woman will be willing to learn, generous in judgment, and will have a real culture of hearts," says Dean Ogden. "She will be a woman with thorough preparation for service, a service devoted to the finest and highest. All this means that she will take a definite, determined stand against any actions or suggestions that can be misinterpreted because of their endangering our development toward the ideal we have in mind."

Dean Ogden's idea of service is that of self value in preparation for efficiency in living the fullest lives possible. She says that from a selfish standpoint — if from no other — the shortest path to happiness is in the rendering of service to others. Dean Ogden believes that a girl is taken for the estimate she places on herself, and that she should estimate herself as a high investment, as an investment with the idea of service.

Before she had ever seen Wesleyan, Dean Ogden says that she had a great respect and interest in the school, due to the fact that she had come in close contact at Allegheny College (her Alma Mater) with students from this school, and that furthermore they had left her with an impression of strong manly and womanly, as well as studious characters.

"The development of this ideal is not new, it is merely the realization of it in Wesleyan," states the Dean.

From time to time the new Dean of Women in our college will add to her plan of program by the introduction of major and minor helps toward the development of an "Ideal Wesleyan Girl."

The February 3, 1926 issue of the Pharos indicated that Dean Ogden intended to carry out Dean Stemple's ideas and ideals to the best of her ability. One of the most outstanding of these ideals being that of developing a distinct type of woman, one that might be recognized anywhere as a West Virginia Wesleyan woman.

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From the beginning of the school, the Founders declared that it would be quality education for both boys and girls. From the first day the school was opened there were women on the faculty. These things were unusual.Women in the United States had not succeeded in winning the right to vote until 1920, but women's leadership has been part of our Intsitutional DNA from the very beginning.

Happy 90th Birthday to the Buckhannon Branch of the AAUW! Generations of leaders inspiring leaders!

October 29 Searching for Shalom

Sometimes there are no words.

This week several messages of sadness and loss came – The Orange Line is hurting. Through social media, college emails, and then even national media we have learned of the loss of some of our WVWC family members.

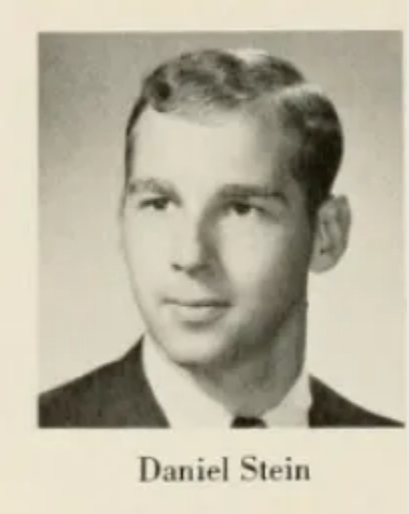
Betty Barrick Furan, Class of 1979, died of a massive heart attack. She was a member of Kappa Phi while at WVWC and her friends remember such great times together. After graduation she also earned a Master of Divinity Degree at Drew University. She loved music.

K. David Rollins, Class of 1976 (seen here with the Sports Writers for the Pharos in 1976) was a member of the Council on Church Ministries and a brother in the Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity. He walked in the Orange Line each and every year during the Founders Day Convocation.

And then came the news that Daniel Stein, Class of 1969, was among those murdered in a mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pennsylvania.

He was a new grandfather, and loved spending time with his grandson and cheering for his Pittsburgh Pirates and Pittsburgh Steelers. He was a leader in the Pittsburgh Jewish community, and was known for his volunteer work and generosity.

During his time at WVWC, Daniel was known for his infectious smile, kindness, and was well liked by those who knew him.



Daniel Stein

Daniel was one of two Spanish majors who graduated in 1969, and had a minor in Latin American Studies. He probably spent a good bit of time with Robert B.. Green, who taught Spanish from 1965-71. In addition, Dr. Fred Peterson, a world expert in Latin American Studies, would have been one of his mentors.

Photo by Hiner

Stein was very involved with Intramurals, such as pictured below. Although the individuals in these pictures were not identified, it certainly shows the fun and the competition that was taking place.

Each of these members of the WVWC family was a beloved friend, a beloved student, a beloved classmate, a beloved colleague, a beloved family member. The WVWC community is weeping with all who loved them.

We also weep with the Jewish Community. The senseless violence against these people of faith has gone on far too long in far too many places.

November 5 Trend of the Times

William Edwin Stephens was a senior student from Moundsville, WV, and World War II was looming. He wrote a series of articles in the Pharos in the spring of 1940. It was called *Trend of Times*, and included such topics as The Mass Mind (February 21, 1940) and Defending Democracy (April 10, 1940). He had an impressive set of credentials:

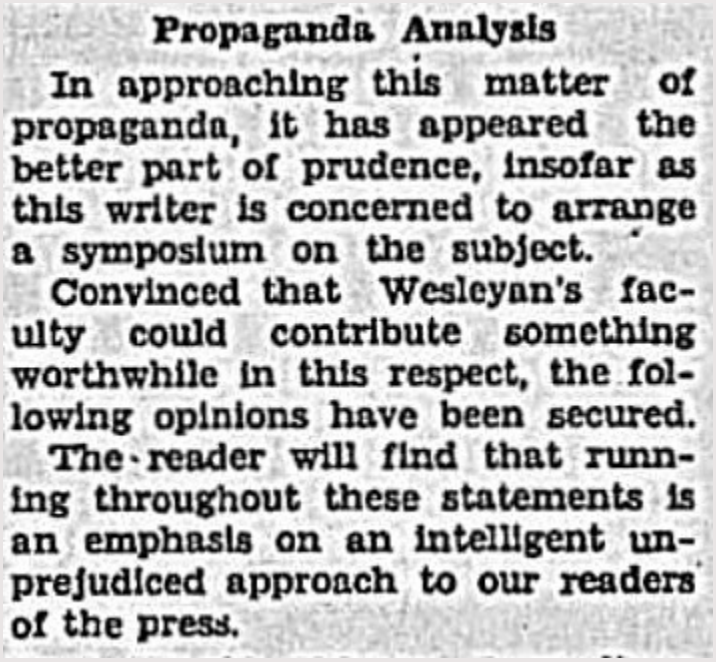
- Pi Kappa Delta: Pi Kappa Delta represents the most able debaters of Wesleyan's campus. This organization is to promote forensic endeavor. It was establised in 1928. It is nationally affiliated. (Murmurmontis 1940)
- Play Shop: "The play must go on" is the motto of this group of actors and actresses on Wesleyan's stage. Those students who complete four internships are eligible for membership in this club.
- Sigma Alpha Sigma: Honor students of the college, those with the highest scholastic averages, make up this organization's distinction. It was organized in May 1933.
- International Relations Club: Foreign policies near and far are the interests of this group of young history students and those interested in the affairs of the world.
- Debate

Following his graduation in 1940 (Cum Laude, with a Double Major in Social Studies and Education) William served in the 8th US Army Air Force in Europe during World War II and retired as a Lt. Col. from the US Air Force Reserve. He was a Personnel Manager for DuPont for 27 years. See his obituary for details.

On the eve of Election Day 2018, I would like to let William's articles speak to us across the sands of time. They certainly have a ring of familiarity and relevance about them. And, he includes the voices of well-known and well-loved faculty members as well. Click on the titles of the articles to see them in their entirety and in the context of the other things that were happening at the time.

February 21, 1940 *The Mass Mind*

March 3, 1cdm16111.contentdm.oclc.org/...ll13/id/2722940 *Propaganda Analysis* (Which includes the voices of Professor Harold Ahlgren, Professor Lewis Chrisman, Professor Arthur Allen Schoolcraft, Professor Harold Steele, and Professor George Glauner.



Propaganda Analysis

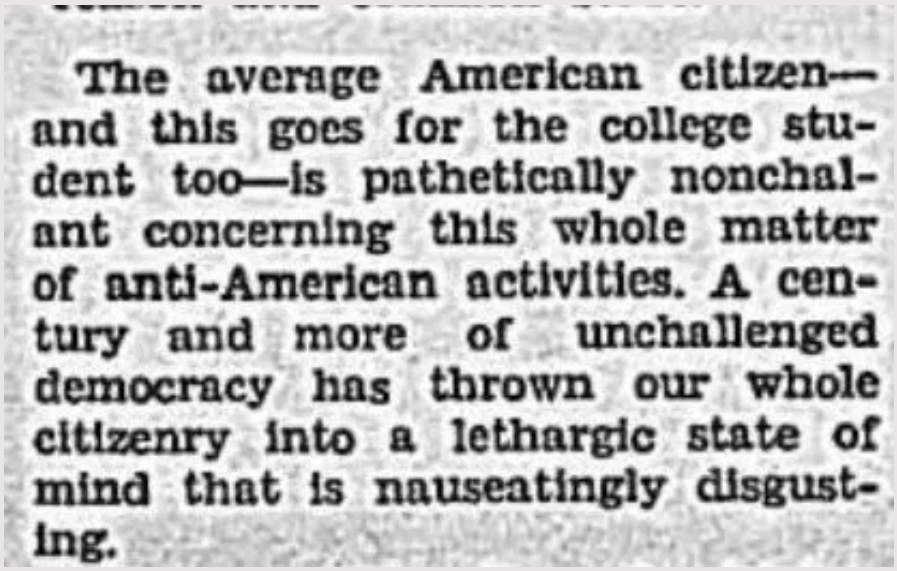
In approaching this matter of propaganda, it has appeared the better part of prudence, insofar as this writer is concerned to arrange a symposium on the subject.

Convinced that Wesleyan's faculty could contribute something worthwhile in this respect, the following opinions have been secured.

The reader will find that running throughout these statements is an emphasis on an intelligent unprejudiced approach to our readers of the press.

March 30, 1940 *Yellow Journalism*

April 10, 1940 *Defending Democracy*



The average American citizen—and this goes for the college student too—is pathetically nonchalant concerning this whole matter of anti-American activities. A century and more of unchallenged democracy has thrown our whole citizenry into a lethargic state of mind that is nauseatingly disgusting.

April 17, 1940 *The Real Issue*

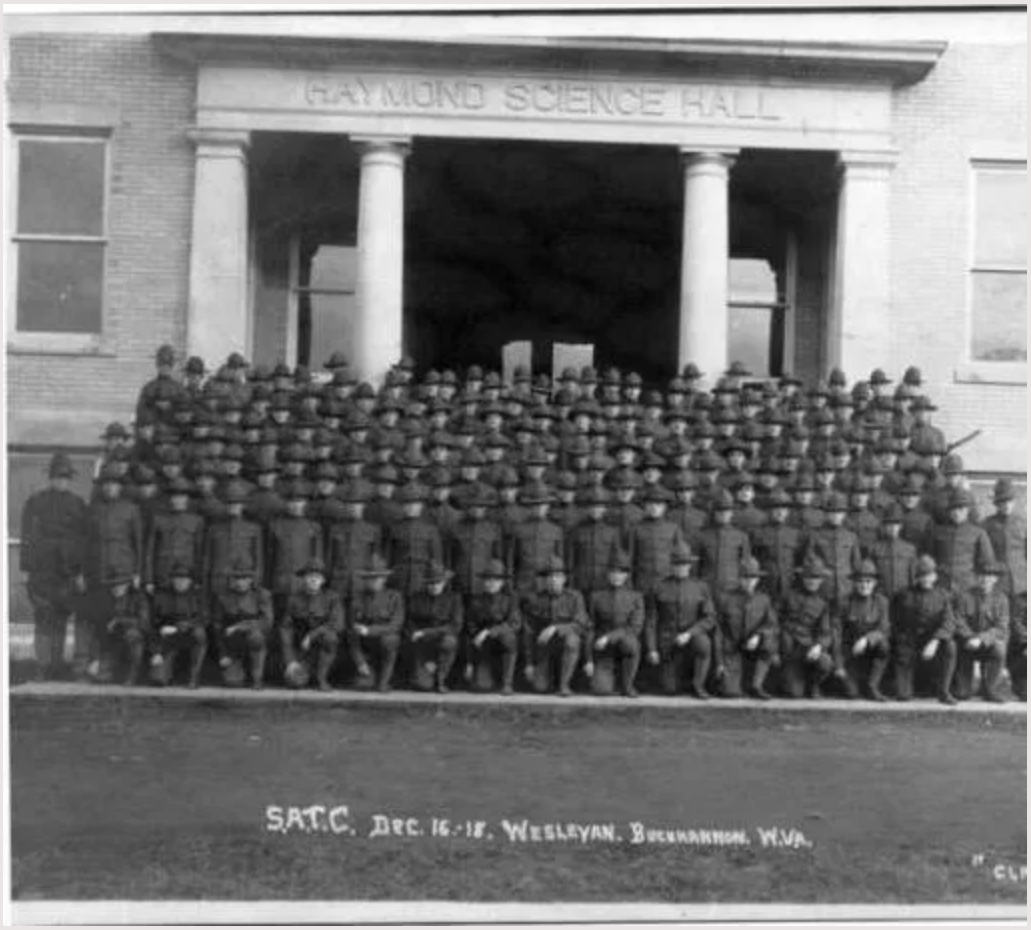
November 12 Like No Other

Fall semester of 1918 was like none other — before or in the 100 years since.

The U.S. had entered World War I, students had left to serve, the War Department organized Student Army Training Corps to train soldiers – one of the 500 was on the campus of Wesleyan – and the Spanish Influenza epidemic caused quarantines.

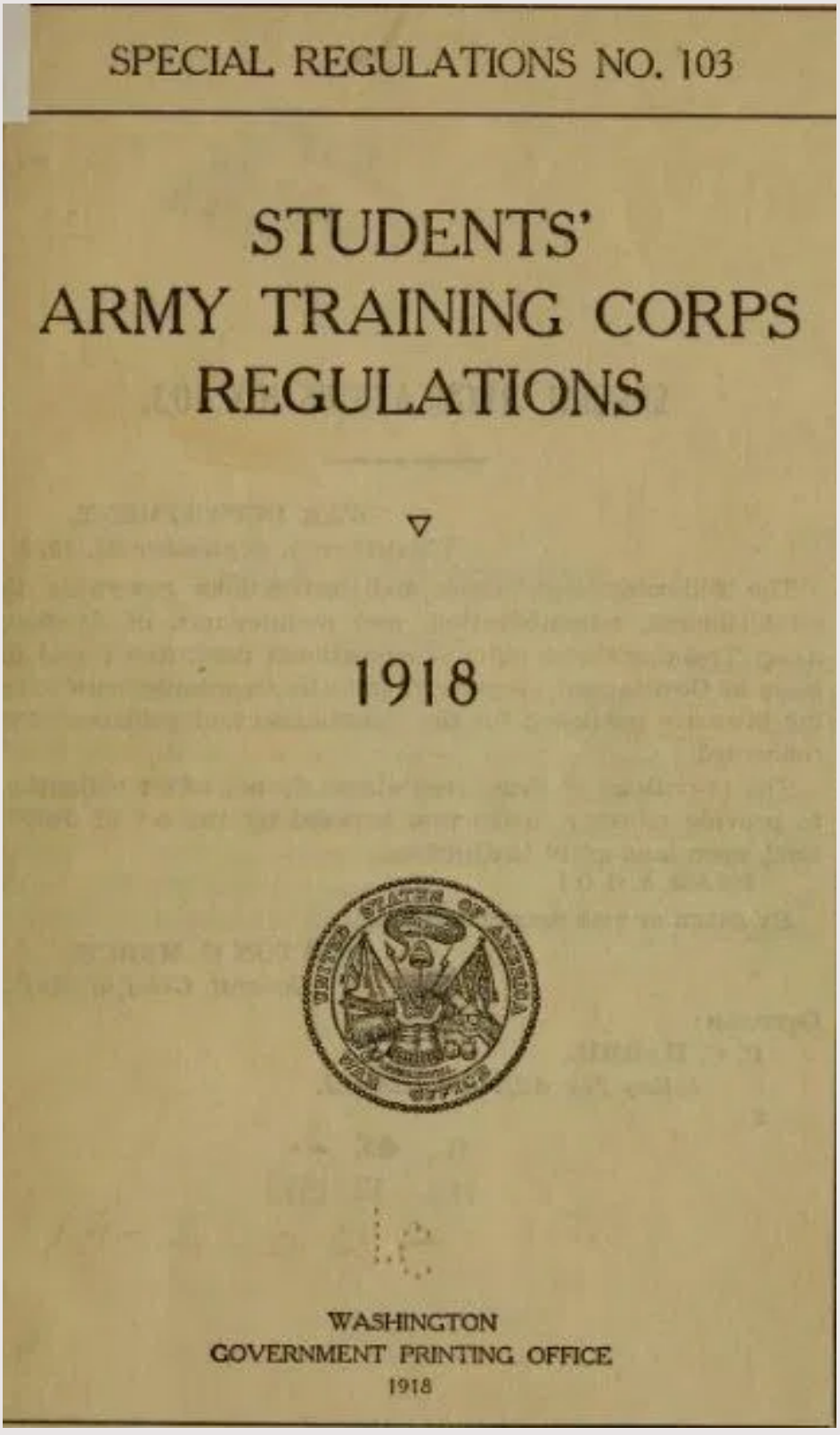
Students who were “Over Here” were thinking about their friends “Over There,” and soldiers “Over There” were writing letters home to friends, faculty members, and to President Wallace B. Fleming.

Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.)



World War I, Student Army Training Corp., 1918

The War Department organized Student Army Training Corps units in about 500 schools around the country, including Wesleyan. The purpose was to allow students to continue their education while finding and preparing those who would become officers. Click here to read the 15 pages of Rules and Regulations for these units.



SPECIAL REGULATIONS NO. 103

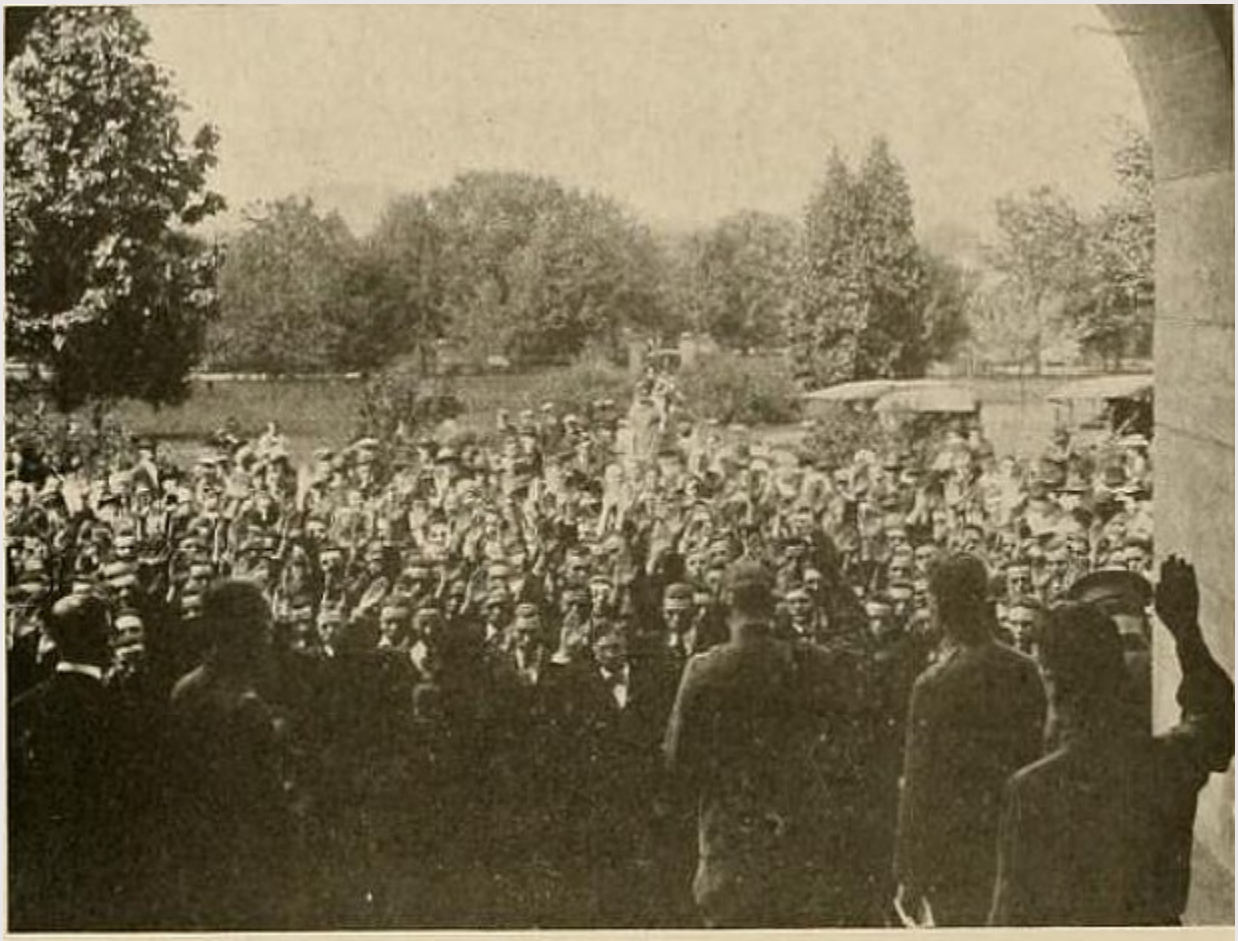
STUDENTS'
ARMY TRAINING CORPS
REGULATIONS

1918

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1918

On September 30, 1918 there was an Inaguration Ceremony for the 200 troops who would study and train at Wesleyan. It was held in front of the Administration Building, and simultaneous to other such ceremonies across the country. President Fleming and Dean Thomas W. Haught spoke.

Three Lieutenants were present: Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Fred Horton, Jr., Adjutant Cecil G. Gaston, and Personnel Officer Neal Y. Pharr. Adjutant Gaston read words of greeting to the men from the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, and the Chief of Staff.



"BEFORE"

The October 7, 1918 issue of *The Pharos* gave some great details and descriptions of the program and of the ceremony. Click here to read the stories in their entirety.

THE PHAROS

Published Bi-Weekly by the Students of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W. Va.

VOLUME XVI. BUCKHANNON, W. VA., MONDAY, OCT. 7, 1918. NO. 1

WESLEYAN HAS S. A. T. C. UNIT

A unit of the Student Army Training Corps has been organized at Wesleyan, and there is no doubt that in the near future Wesleyan will be sending out trained men who will become leaders in the military world, just as she has sent out trained men who have become leaders in the civilian world.

The purpose of the S. A. T. C. is to secure officer material and at the same time to allow the student to continue his school work. Many changes have been made in the schedules of the five hundred or more colleges that are giving this training. Instead of the school year being divided into two semesters of eighteen weeks each, it is now divided into four quarters. The first quarter will probably end about December 21st, and it is then that the first transfers from here will be made. Men will be transferred to Officers' are assured of several good games. The local high school has already asked for a game with the military reserves.

The military instruction will consist in close order drill, bayonet fighting, musketry and physical education. The student soldier's daily program will include four hours class work, two hours of supervised study, and two hours of drill. The plan is to arrange it so that most of the classes will come in the morning. Saturday morning will be inspection, and then the men will be free until Sunday night. It might be mentioned that the government requires eight and one-half hours' sleep, so it will be from 9:30 to 6:00 for the fellows from now on.

The government is being extremely liberal in the matter of clothing. Each member of the S. A. T. C. will receive an overcoat, hat, two flannel shirts, two Every one will have to be measured for his uniform, and it will probably be a month before the clothing arrives.

The large Wesleyan gymnasium has been completely overhauled. The bleachers have been removed and the large basketball floor has been turned into a huge bedroom, but instead of beds there will be army cots with the usual 18 inches between them. Kitchens have been fitted up in the basement, and the large unfinished room known as the "cage" has been made into a mess hall. The gymnasium, or barracks, as it is now called, will be electrically equipped thruout, heated by steam, and in every way an ideal home. The barracks will be ready for the men at least by October 8th.

The college has been given the contract for the feeding of the men, and already the beans are arriving by the truckload. No doubt, Mr. Rowlands will follow his long-established custom of serving chicken every to vaccinate all men for smallpox and to innoculate them for typhoid. There is, not, much probability of the officers changing that custom here.

Guns and equipment will be supplied in the course of time, and rifle practice will be held.

S. A. T. C. INAUGURATION

Wesleyan campus, facing College Hall, was the scene on Tuesday, Sept. 30th, of a service that partook of national dimensions. For simultaneously with this one, similar gatherings, inaugurating the Students' Army Training Corps, were being held thruout the country, extending westward thru the time belts until nine o'clock marked the hour in colleges of the Pacific slope.

Wesleyan's army corps, almost two hundred strong, was gathered in a body near the steps, which served as a speakers' stand. Beyond these radiated in a half circle the audience of college and townspeople. Old

The soldiers were housed in the Gymnasium, then only six years old, which was converted into sleeping quarters and a mess hall for the men. The basketball court was fitted with army cots, and the mess hall was located in the basement.

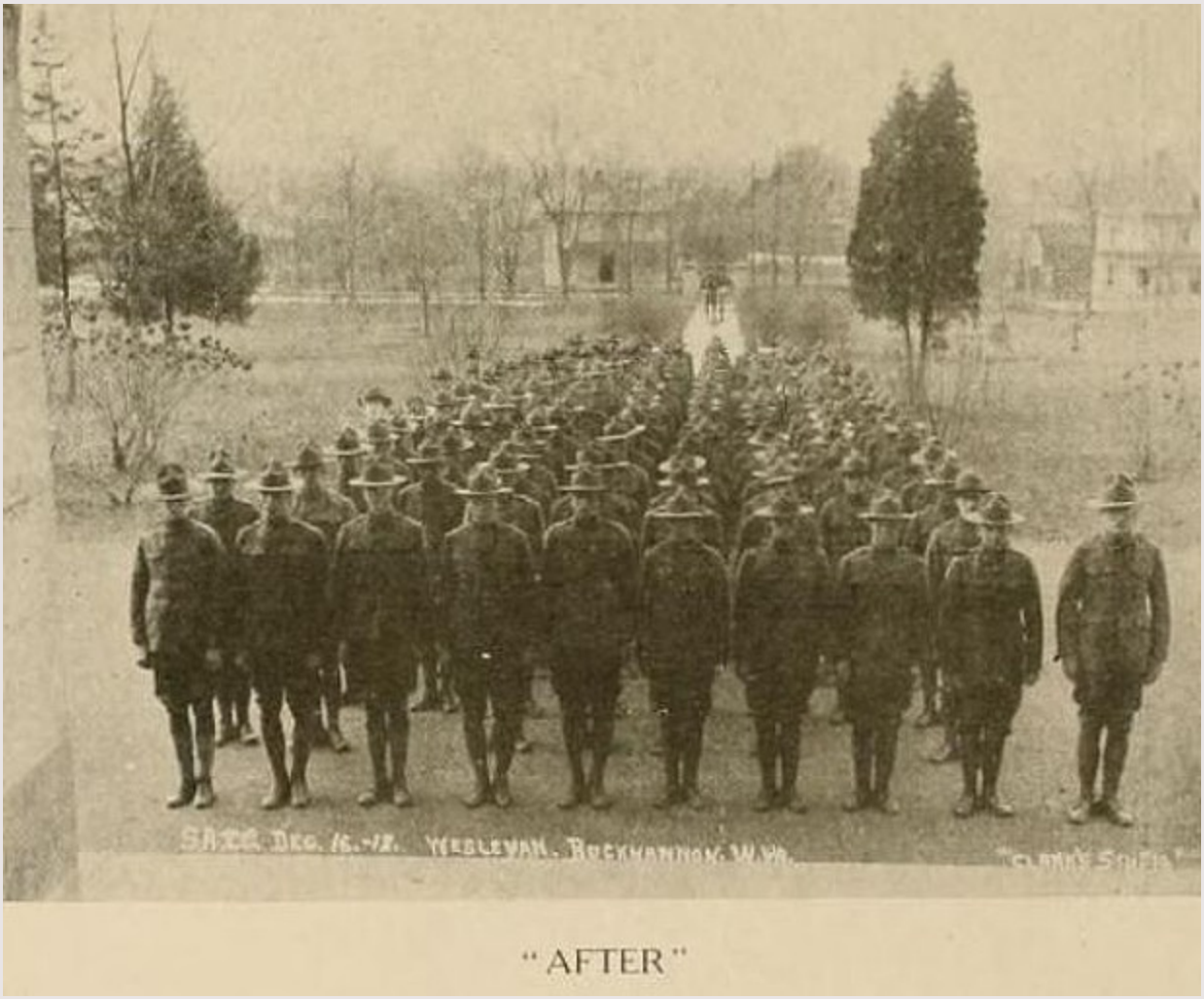
Their days were regulated with four hours of class work, two hours of supervised study, two hours of drill, and a required 8 1/2 hours of sleep from 9:30 pm to 6:00 am. The girls on campus were quite interested in meeting some of these soldiers, but there were fairly strict policies that limited those interactions.

The Music Hall (now known as the English Annex) was put into service as an infirmary when the Spanish Influenza epidemic made an appearance on campus. Quarantines were put into place for both S.A.T.C. soldiers and Wesleyan students.

Armistice Day (November 11, 1918)

The glad news came that the war was over at the 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month!

The War Department then disbanded the S.A.T.C. programs at the close of the term. The soldiers were able to be home by Christmas. Some chose to come back as regular students to the college during the next term.



"AFTER"

Over There in the Fall of 1918

While all of this was happening here on campus, there were Wesleyan students abroad. They were on the battlefields and behind the lines. Several of them wrote letters to President Fleming, Professor Deck, and others at the school to let them know how they were doing. They were thinking of their days in Buckhannon as well. This issue of *The Pharos* was published just one week before the war ended.

Here are a few excerpts, and a link to the full letters:

W.H. Snedegar to President Fleming: "Just a few lines from one who, though far away, still carries with him pleasant thoughts of the past year spent at Wesleyan, and who still has the Wesleyan spirit running thru his veins. I was called for service June 24th, and on July 18 I was on my way to France."

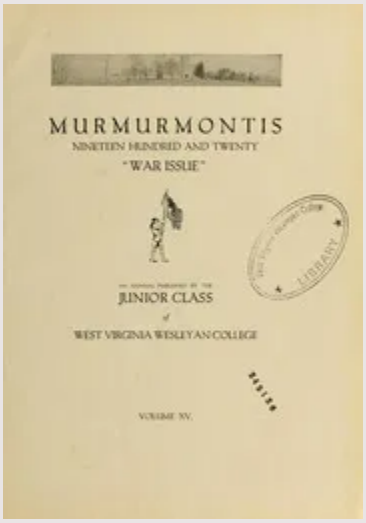
From Harvey Swisher: “I did not realize being an officer was so much superior to being a private until I began to travel, but we sure do get the best of service and treatment. Over here the officers are billited with French families, in good beds and with the finest of food. They are all very interesting and courteous to us. I am learning to speak French very well, and I think after a few months here will be able to carry on a fluent conversation.”

Also from Harvey Swisher: “We get our gas masks and steel helmets soon. The helmets are rather heavy, but one soon gets used to them. I am well clothed, have good shoes and boots to keep me warm and dry. I do not want you to worry, as I am getting along fine and am very able to take care of myself.”

From Grant Swisher: “I am glad to hear that old Wesleyan is going to have a military course this fall. I know that it will bring many new students to school. I wish you all the success in the world for the coming school year. I am well and getting along fine. We hope to be up where we can get a few Germans soon. Do not expect to stay away from the old U.S.A. so very much longer.”

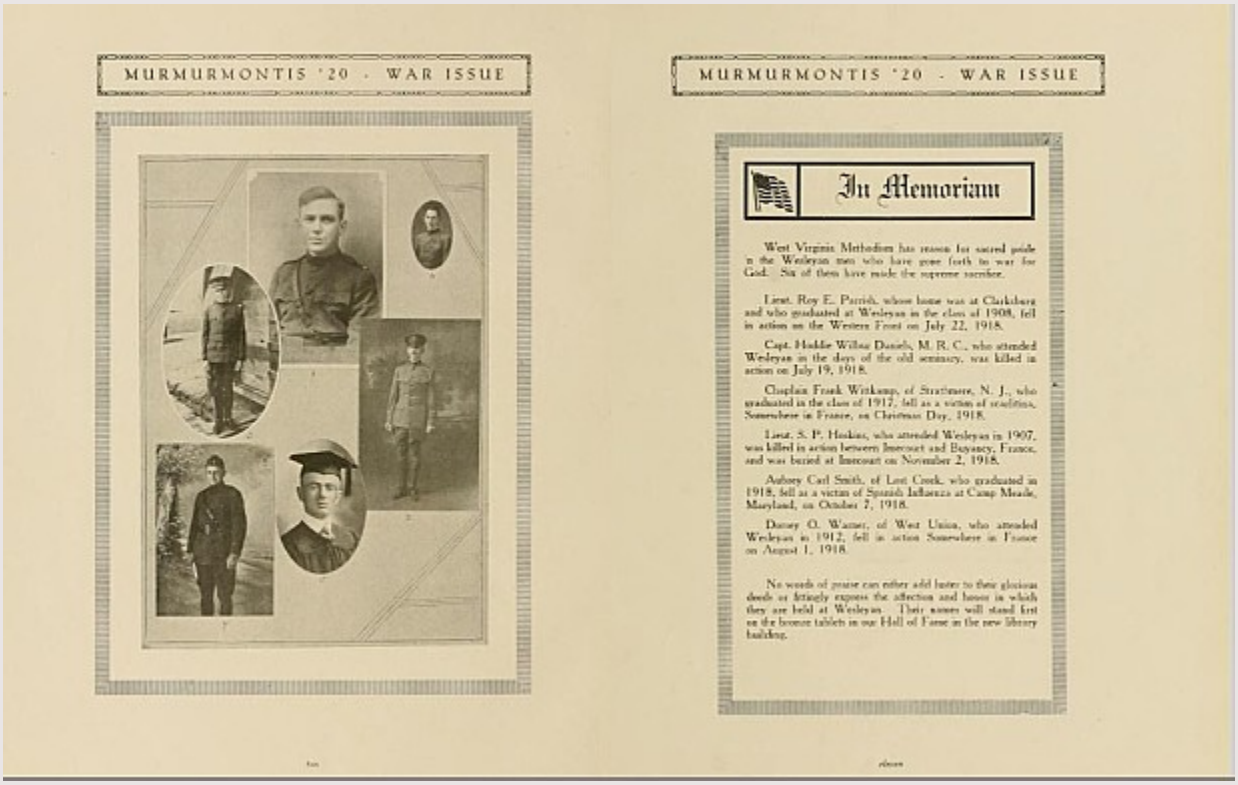
From Edwin Krick: “We are in the trenches from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. It is a long and weary night, but the shells keep us busy moving around. I get a little sleep now and then, but have to be on the lookout for gas, as it is the thing we fear most.....”No doubt you read a good deal of what is going on over here, but you do not get the facts. I have not gone over the top yet, but our time is at hand.”

The War Issue of the Murmurmontis (1920)



The 1920 edition of the Murmurmontis was designated as the War Issue to pay tribute to all of the things that had occurred, the lives changed, and is a record of things that somehow went on as usual during this remarkable time. It is certainly worth the time to look through it!

Some of the men did not return from the Great War, and are honored in this publication.

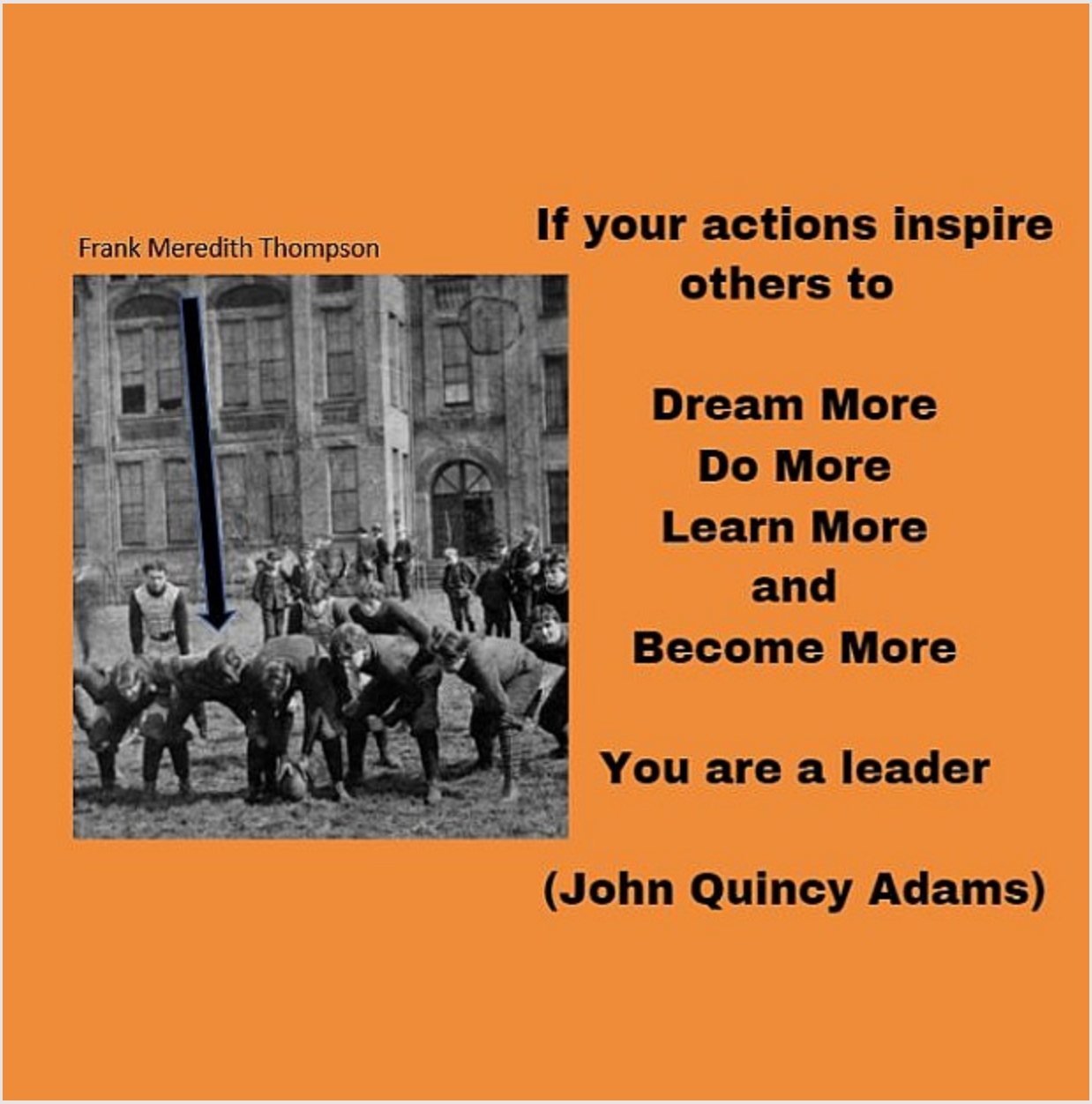

MURMURMONTIS '20 - WAR ISSUE
MURMURMONTIS '20 - WAR ISSUE
In Memoriam
West Virginia Methodism has reason for sacred pride in the Wesleyan men who have gone forth to war for God. Six of them have made the supreme sacrifice.
Lieut. Roy E. Parrish, whose home was at Clarksburg and who graduated at Wesleyan in the class of 1908, fell in action on the Western Front on July 22, 1918.
Capt. Haddie Wilbur Daniels, M. R. C., who attended Wesleyan in the days of the old seminary, was killed in action on July 19, 1918.
Chaplain Frank Witkamp, of Strathmere, N. J., who graduated in the class of 1917, fell as a victim of vacation, Somewhere in France, on Christmas Day, 1918.
Lieut. S. P. Hoskins, who attended Wesleyan in 1907, was killed in action between Intercourt and Buyancy, France, and was buried at Intercourt on November 2, 1918.
Aubrey Carl Smith, of Lost Creek, who graduated in 1918, fell as a victim of Spanish Influenza at Camp Meade, Maryland, on October 7, 1918.
Danny O. Warner, of West Union, who attended Wesleyan in 1912, fell in action Somewhere in France on August 1, 1918.
No words of praise can either add luster to their glorious deeds or fittingly express the affection and honor in which they are held at Wesleyan. Their names will stand first on the bronze tablets in our Hall of Fame in the new library building.

One of these was Lieutenant Roy Earl Parish, who was the subject of an earlier post to this blog. You can read it here.

Remembering All Who Were Involved

The world had never seen anything quite like it before. Celebrating 100 years since the end of World War I, and the chance for those involved to return to the lives that were interrupted.

November 19 The Colors of Leadership



Frank Meredith Thompson was a leader from the very beginning of his life until the end. Born in 1880 as the oldest of six children in a poor rural area of Pennsylvania he sold papers, ran errands, trapped muskrats, and pumped the organ at the Presbyterian Church to earn a few pennies.

There was no high school anywhere in the vicinity of his home, but he realized the value of a good education. He saved up $75 and came to the West Virginia Conference Seminary where he graduated in 1902. At the time, the preparatory program of the school was not yet college accredited, although the Classical program which he completed was very rigorous. Click here to see the full curriculum! The description of the Classical Course in the 1902 Catalog states:

In this course, Latin, Greek, and English are the principal studies. Due attention is given to Mathematics, History, and Natural Science. This has been considered the strongest course in our best schools and colleges from time immemorial. It is especially popular at the Seminary. No other course so thoroughly prepares the student for the various professions and callings in life as this one.

1898 FOOTBALL TEAM
(L to R) Linemen; Orne C. Post, end; Frank Parrack, tackle; Arch Hall, guard; James Charter, center; Gilbert Friend, guard; Emery Ash, tackle; Charles Sanford, end.
Backfield, (L to R): James T. B. Morrison, halfback; Horace H. "Dad" Withers, quarterback; Frank M. Thompson, fullback; Charles J Hyre, halfback.
First football game-Thursday, November 30, 1899 (Thanksgiving Day)-2:30 P. M.

While a student, Thompson organized the very first football team at the school, and they challenged a corps of civil engineers who were in the area working on the B. and O. Railroad to the school's first football game on Thanksgiving Day 1899. The Methodists practiced one week prior to the game and "appeared for the battle uniformed in odds and ends made up mostly of baseball suits."

Frank Meredith Thompson, however, appeared in an orange and black striped sweater which he purchased and wore because of his great admiration for the Poe Brothers of Princeton. His teammates, in turn, admired the sweater so Frank declared that Orange and Black would be our school colors as well. He told all about this when he came back to campus in October 1949. He stated:

> *At that time the Poe brothers were football stars at Princeton University. Princeton's colors were orange and black. I wanted a sweater just like the ones worn by the Poes, whom I idealized for their gridiron prowess. So Princeton's ivy league colors are ours. I guess I can tell the story now – after fifty years."*

The Poe Brothers of Princeton

- **Samuel Johnson Poe,** Class of 1884
  played halfback in 1882–83
- **Edgar Allan Poe**, Class of 1891
  was an All-American quarterback in 1887–90 and captained the team in his junior and senior years
- **John Prentiss Poe, Jr.**, Class of 1895
  played halfback in 1891–92, left school for academic reasons, and returned afterwards to coach
- **Neilson (Net) Poe**, Class of 1897
  played in the backfield in 1895-96 and later returned to coach.
- **Arthur Poe**, Class of 1900
  an All-American end made the decisive scores that beat rival Yale in two successive years
- **Gresham Poe,** Class of 1902
  played as a substitute on the varsity in 1901

Wikipedia

Frank Thompson chose great role models! You can read more about them here.

On Tuesday, September 11, 1900 Thompson was an organizing member of the Athletic Association at the school.

When the school fielded the first official football team in 1902, Thompson was the captain of that squad.

Frank Meredith Thompson’s Life Beyond Buckhannon

- Enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard regiment for the Spanish-American War
- Went to Allegheny College, where he received his A.B. in 1906
- Went to Boston University, where he received his S.T.B. in 1908
- Served Methodist Episcopal Churches in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore
- Enlisted in the Army in 1917, where he served for 27 years in the Chaplain Corps in many places including France in World War I, the Mexican border, Panama, Hawaii, and as the chief of chaplains at Fort Benning, Georgia during World War II.
- Retired to Pinehurst, N.C. where he continued to serve churches on an interim basis, was active in civic groups, played contract bridge and golf, and was well-known for his warmth and his generosity.

President William John Scarborough, Thompson, Cebe Ross

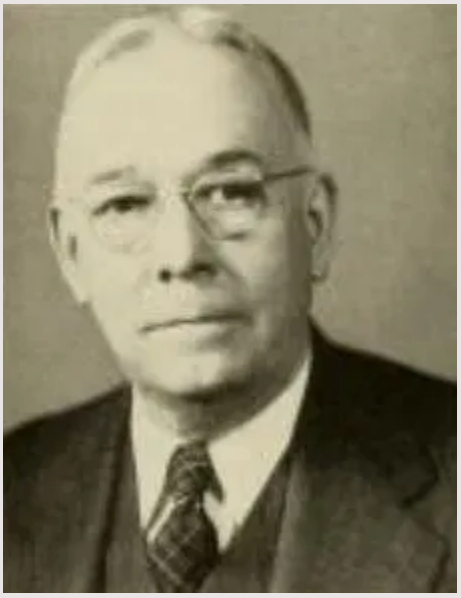
In October of 1949, Col. Frank Meredith Thompson returned to campus, out of gratitude for his experiences in his student days, to establish an annual $50 award to be given to the "Wesleyan athlete who has the most outstanding record as athletic achievement for the year."

Frank Meredith Thompson did inspire others. He also lived a life where he dreamed more, did more, learned more, and became more. And, thanks to him, we are all wearing Orange and Black to this day!

Sources:

* (1900, September). Athletics. *Seminary Collegiate,* pages 22 and 23.
* (1949, November) Thompson Tells How Our College Colors Originated. *West Virginia Wesleyan College Bulletin.*
* (1960, August 19).Thompson, 80, Chaplain for 27 Years, Dies. *The Pinehurst Outlook.* [Transcribed by Paula McGrew, 11/18/2018]
* (1960, August). Man Who Gave Weesleyan Football and Its Colors Dies at Age of 80. *Record Delta* [Transcribed by Paula McGrew, 11/18/2018]

November 22 Thanksgiving



Lewis H. Chrisman 1947 Murmurmontis

Thanksgiving Thoughts, by Lewis H. Chrisman (November 1947):

The request to write a few words of Thanksgiving greetings for the West Virginia Wesleyan College Bulletin causes memory to throw the light of other days around me. In these times of comparatively easy transportation, the Wesleyan campus on Thanksgiving is a rather lonely place. Students can get home easily, and practically all of them take advantage of their opportunity.

This was not so back in the administrations of Dr. Fleming and Dr. Cutshall. Then the whole college community remained in Buckhannon. In the morning most of us went to church. The rest of the day was spent in lazy comfort. Then came the climax, which was a traditional dinner in the Agnes Howard Hall. My only painful memory of the occasion was of a nefarious and unsuccessful attempt being made to compel me to carve the turkey at the speakers' table. Those of later generations are warned not to picture this company assembled in the present dining room. In those days the girls of the Agnes Howard Hall dined in the large room on the first floor on the side next to the Administration Building. I often think of that crowded room on Thanksgiving evening with the heavily laden tables and the happy company. And I am sure that these memories are shared by many others of that college generation.

Since those days much water has passed down the Buckhannon. Wesleyan has gone through some hard storms and successfully weathered them. Other generations of students have come and gone. Wesleyan men, and some women, have journeyed to the ends of the earth at the call of war's rude tumult. Yet the life of the college at Buckhannon has moved steadily on. Some of us for almost thirty years have faced students in the same classrooms. It may be hard for Wesleyanites of other days to imagine the chapel packed with students to the top seats of the balcony, as is now the case. We must though, remember that the Wesleyan of yesterday is the Wesleyan of today. The past, the present, and the future march hand in hand.

Although we no longer gather in the Agnes Howard Hall on Thanksgiving Day, there is still no better time for us to relive the experiences of the past, to remember those who made college life richer and brighter, and to renew our allegiance to the great moral and spiritual verities which undergird the universe.

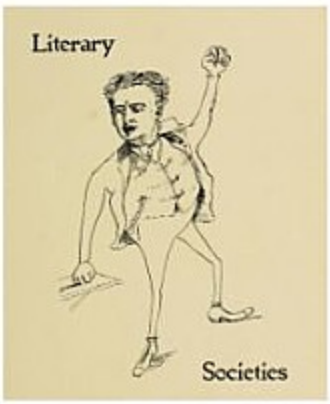
Chrisman, L. H. (1947). Thanksgiving Thoughts. *The West Virginia Wesleyan College Bulletin, 40*(8), p.2.

Chrisman, L.H. (1949). Our Thanksgiving Heritage. *The West Virginia Wesleyan College Bulletin, 42(9),* p.3.

Lewis H. Chrisman

Related Post: Curating the Stories

November 26 Death By Obsolescence



Literary Societies

The First (and for many years) the Only Student Organizations

The Beginning

The West Virginia Conference Seminary opened on September 3, 1890

The very next week, on September 11, 1890,
the Literary Societies were formed

Thomas W. Haught tells us that President Hutchinson and the faculty, *"took the roster of students and divided it into two lists, equal in number, assigning all students to one or the other. There were practically no requests made by students for permission to change from one group to the other, and both groups at once set about organizing by adopting names, constitutions, and electing officers."*

First (and for many years the only) Student Organizations

Chrestomathean	Excelsior
Motto: "Virtue et labore" (By Valour and Exertion) Colors: Orange and White The word Chrestomathean is taken from the Greek, and roughly translates as a selection of literary passages for those with the desire for learning.	Motto: "Esse quam videri" (To Be Rather Than To Seem) Colors: Pink and Blue The word Excelsior, from Latin, means Higher, Always Upward.

Read more about these early days in Thomas Haught's book, pages 168-169

Society A and Society B became Chrestomathean and Excelsior.

- Chrestomathean (from the Greek) A useful selection of literary passages for those with the desire for learning
- Excelsior (from the Latin) Higher, Always Upward

Each Had a Hall

Intellectual - Forensic - Aesthetic - Social Focus of the School

In the Seminary Building, each of these societies had a Hall, which they decorated elegantly, and which included a raised platform and a piano. In the same manner as societies at Oxford and Cambridge, the societies at the West Virginia Conference Seminary were places where intellectual issues of the day would be discussed and debated and where cultural activities would thrive.

Weekly Programs Were the Foundation

Declamation - memorizing and reciting for an audience

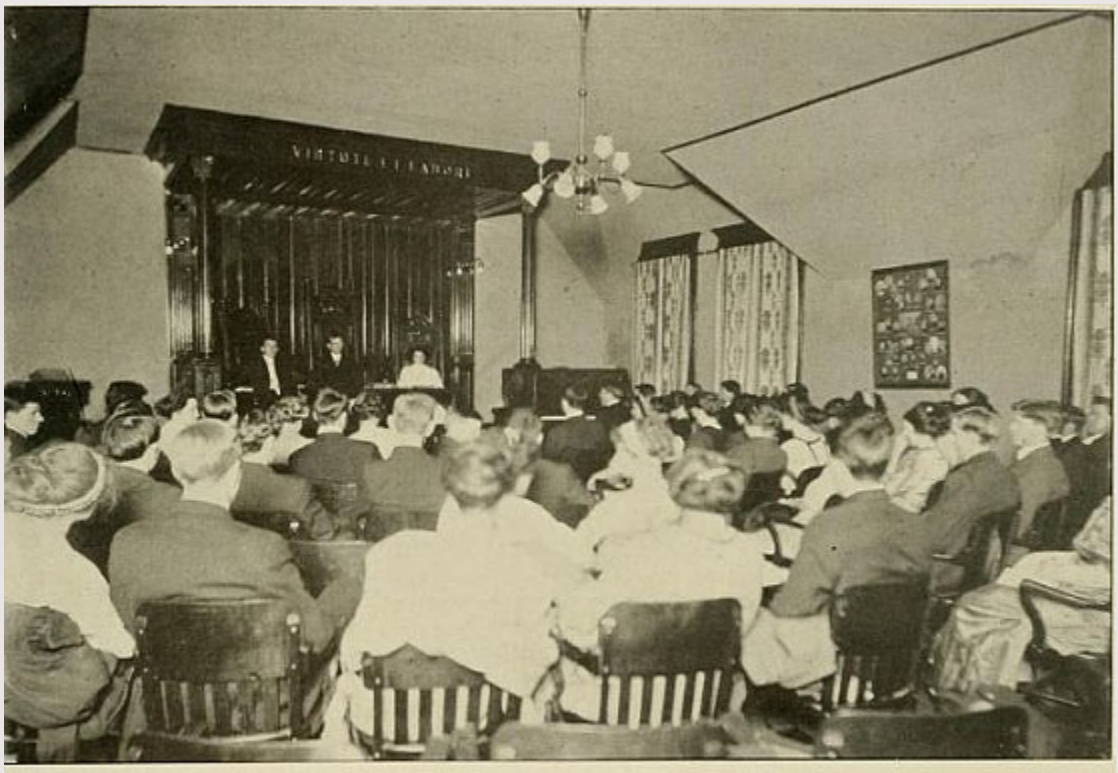
Interpretation - generally of great works of literature

Oration - formal speeches (generally of praise or blame)

Debates - formal discussion of important questions (social, political, moral, philosophical, religious, humor) where both sides of the argument are given

Musical performances were included, and dramas were performed in later years.

All of this was **very competitive**, and the judges were generally their peers. Occasionally faculty would be invited to judge as well. All of this was student led and very professional in nature.



THE CHRESTOS IN SESSION.

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Photo from 1912 Murmurmontis

You may be wondering what kinds of intellectual issues were discussed. Here are some examples from 1891:

March 27, 1891 That the right of suffrage shall be extended to women.

April 10, 1891 That the Railroads and Telegraph lines should be owned by the government.

April 17, 1891 That the Steam Engine is more beneficial to mankind than the Printing Press.

May 1, 1891 That the Pulpit wields a greater influence for good than the Printing Press. (It would appear that the negative argument prevailed here.)

May 7, 1891 That the Negroes have a greater right to complain of ill treatment at the hands of the U.S. than the Indians. (It would also appear that the negative argument prevailed in this one.)

1890-1910

For the first 20 years or so the school maintained a very strict environment for the students. Strict religious and social rules prevailed:

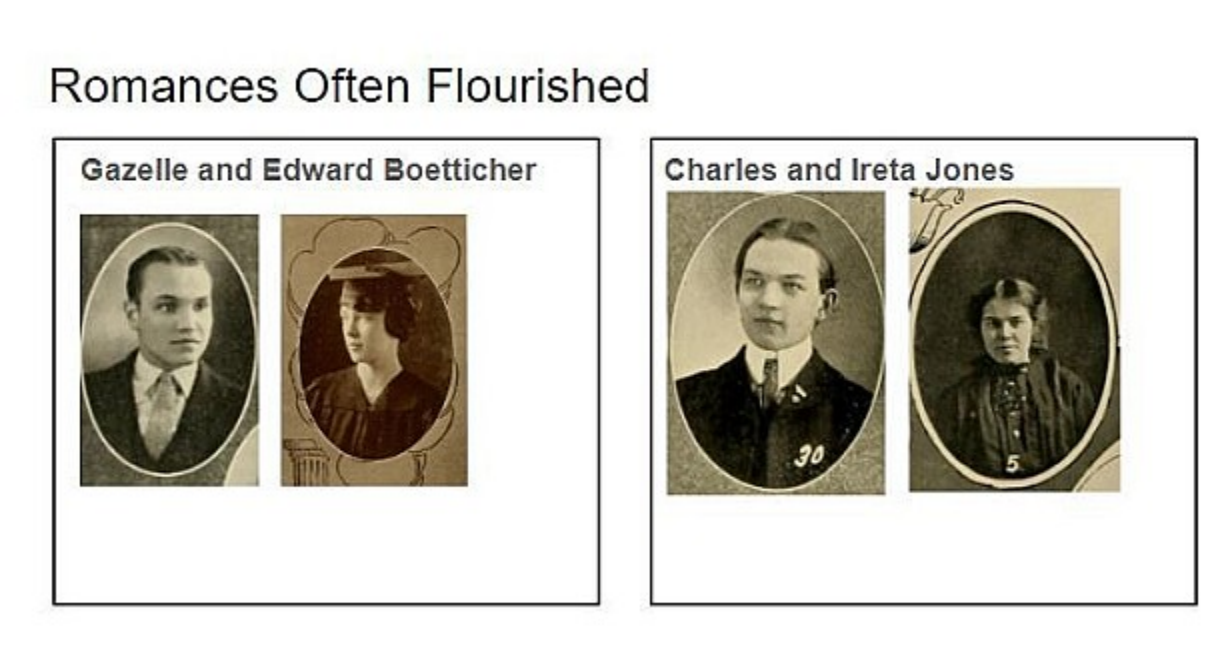
No Dancing, No Smoking, No Plays, No Dating

Therefore, these meetings were the only forms of co-educational social contact beyond the classroom and the chapel services.

Boys and girls took great pride in displaying their intellectual and oratorical skills to impress each other.

Murmurmontis 1908

They spent a lot of time together- at meetings, and preparing programs and debates. In many cases romances flourished. Here are a couple of examples of couples who met in the Chrestomathean Literary Society, and who were later married for many years.



Edward Boetticher became a Methodist pastor after his graduation in 1926, and served as a Trustee of the College from 1949-1965. Here is a related story about Edward and Gazelle: In the Footsteps of Giants.

Charles Aubrey Jones, Seminary Class of 1904, is well known to modern-day Wesleyan as the person who donated our large and valuable collection of materials on Abraham Lincoln. He was also the editor of the very first Murmurmontis (yearbook) and stayed in close contact with the school throughout his life. I had the honor to meet with Charles and Ireta's daughter, Betty, when she was in her 90s. She told wonderful stories of Mama and Daddy and the love they had for Wesleyan and for each other.

Leadership Opportunities

The officers of these groups wielded a lot of power,and had many opportunities to grow in their leadership skills. They planned and presided over the weekly programs and the meetings. Officers changed each term:

For this particular year these were the dates:

- Fall Officers (September 3, 1902 through November 11, 1902)
- Winter Officers (November 12, 1902 through March 1, 1903)
- Spring Officers (March 6, 1903 through June 4, 1903)

Many of these leaders became leaders of the school in later years by serving on the Board of Trustees or on the Faculty. Or even President of the College! Here are a few names that may be familiar.

Some Names You Might Know.....

Chrestomathean	Excelsior
Ora Douglas (Curry) (Librarian 1927-1948)	Claude Earl Goodwin (Trustee 1919-1935)
Thomas W. Haught	Edna Jenkins (Trustee 1943-1956)
Charles Aubrey Jones	Roy McCuskey (President 1931-1941)
Oda Earle Karickhoff (Faculty 1919-1946)	J.Roy Price (Trustee 1949-1973)
Clyde Otis Law (Trustee 1919-1956)	Leta Snodgrass (Faculty 1913-1949)
Ireta Lowe	Frank Meredith Thompson
Cebe Ross	Arthur V.G. Upton (Trustee 1932-1955)
Harry Adam Stansbury	Jacob Elbert Wells (Trustee 1915-1948)

After 1910

There were an increasing number of students at the school, making the groups much more difficult to maintain. The first year the school was open, there were a total of 201 students. By 1910, there were 408 on the roster.

There were also increased opportunities for socializing, more specialized groups for students to join, and greater social freedom.

Athletics were on the rise following the building of the Gymnasium, and students would often have to miss meetings for practices or games. There was the Athletic Association, and teams: Football, Baseball, Track, Basketball, Girls Basketball.

Christian youth organizations, such as the Y.M.C.A and the Y.W.C.A. were gaining in popularity both here and in the region, and the school also had a Homiletic Club.

Choirs and eventually bands began to appear.

There was even a Co-Ed German Conversation Club by 1912!

Debating Societies were formed, and Intercollegiate Debating was gaining popularity throughout the country. On the Wesleyan campus were two: The Wesleyan Debating Club and The Webster Debating Club.

Sororities and Fraternities started forming at Wesleyan in the early 1920s.

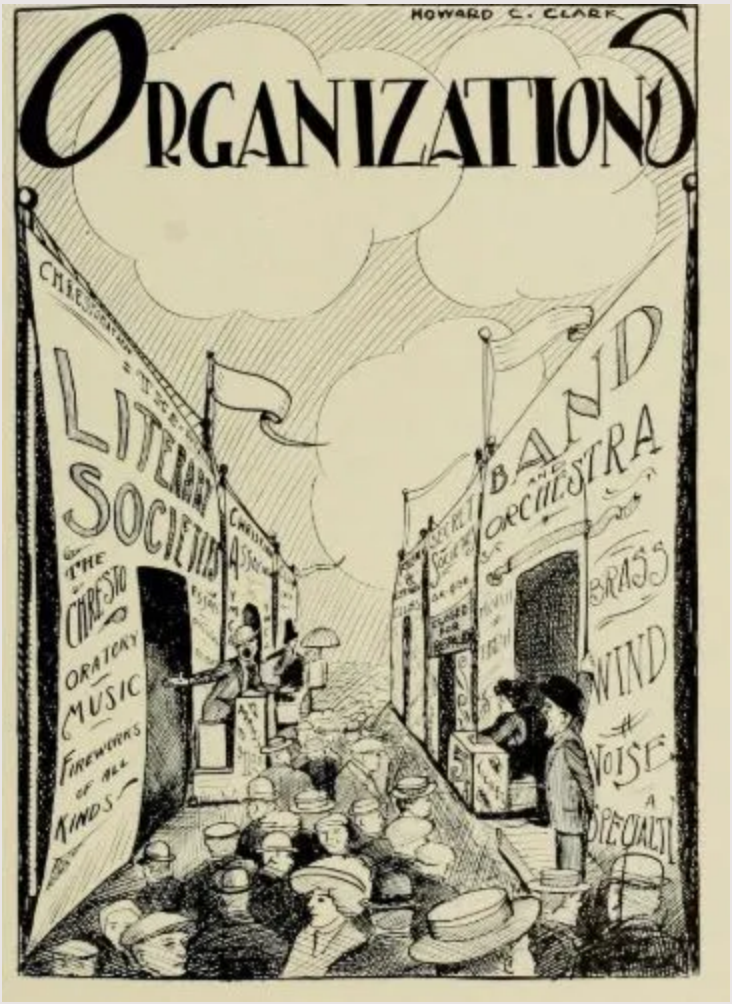
And the Pharos and Murmurmontis staffs were both Co-Ed.

In other words, Student Organizations were specializing. Debate, oration, music, drama, and social interaction were being done in new ways. Many of these things became part of the curriculum of the school as well.

In a two part series of articles for the Sundial in 1961, William C. Seifrit (Assistant Professor of Speech 1959-1964) described the history of the Literary Societies from their beginnings up through the 1920s. Please click here to read these wonderful articles:

The Meaning of ——- “Chrestomathean and Excelsior” (Part 1) pages 4-8

The Meaning of ——- “Chrestomathean and Excelsior” (Part 2) pages 4-7



From 1915 Murmurmontis

December 3 Sing We Now of Christmas

Some people start the Christmas season in August,
or at the very least during the week of Thanksgiving.

Lessons and Carols 2018 (Photo by Dewayne R. Lowther)

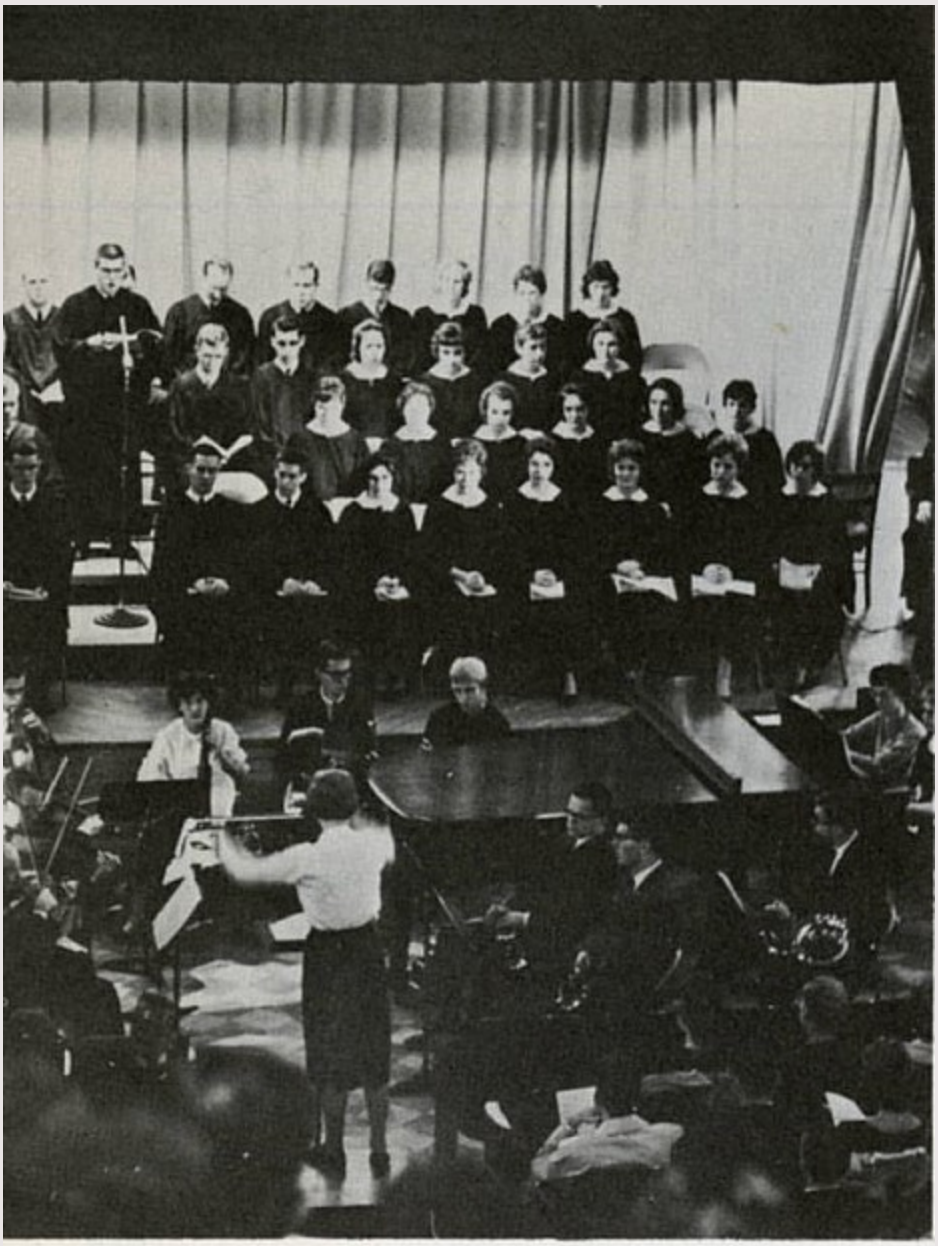
For me, though, it can never really be the Christmas season until the Festival of Lessons and Carols at WVWC. There is just something about the music, the chapel itself, the organ cranked up and many voices joining together as we sing, “O Come All Ye Faithful” or “Joy to the World.”

Although there were musical celebrations and concerts from way back in the 1890s, and for awhile it was a combination of the Hanging of the Greens and the music, the present form of this program began in earnest in 1980.

Early Years

There have been choir concerts, band concerts, orchestra concerts, and every combination of these things through the years to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. The joy and the sense of community at these celebrations has been around for a long time.

Here are some examples from Christmas 1961, shown in the January 1962 issue of the Sundial. This was the first year for a special group of choir members, the Wesleyan Chorale, under the direction of Irma Hopkins Collins.



Handel's "Messiah"

Vivaldi's "Gloria"

Hanging of the Greens

During Christmas of 1961, another Wesleyan Christmas Tradition was born. For many years both the Hanging of the Greens and the Lessons and Carols were combined into one program, although that is no longer the case.

The January 1962 Sundial also explains this tradition and provides us with an accompanying photograph.

Climaxing the Christmas observances "The Hanging of the Green" joined the list of traditions at Wesleyan on December 12. This enactment of an ancient English custom involved the legend of the hanging of the green as well as the relating of the significance of the laurel, mistletoe, holly, and ivy in the folklore of the English people. A wreath including the four Christmas greens was presented to James Stansbury, assistant to the president, who accepted it on behalf of President Stanley H. Martin who was ill.

From 1980 until his retirement in 2013, Dr. Larry R. Parsons directed an Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. It was inspired by the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge – which is celebrating 100 years of this tradition this year.

The music has been beautiful, haunting, expressive, and joyous in this format for 38 years, always done with care and hard work. From year to year the styles of music have changed – sometimes with organ and piano only, other years with brass or woodwind choirs or harp or chamber orchestras, cello, or violin. But always the choirs are well prepared and present a gift to the assembled crowd.

Always the traditional readings have been included. The readers have changed from year to year, generally including campus leaders from all areas of the community. Lists of participants reads like a Who's Who of Wesleyan through the years. Click here to see details of this beautiful tradition.

The traditions have been carried on by R. Daniel Hughes and his choirs. He is including other area choirs from the community as well.

Importance to Choir Members

The preparation of this music has been something that choir members through the years report being very challenging, incredible amounts of work, and one of the things they fondly remember most about their college years.

In fact, this particular year, two Choir Alumni came back to Lessons and Carols with choirs of their own students. Barbara Wygal Lutz, 1978, and Jeremiah Smallridge, 2007 (each a choir Giant in his and her own right) directed their students (who were absolutely amazing!) Barb's group travelled to Buckhannon from Greenbrier East High School, and Jeremiah shares his talents and joy for music at Buckhannon-Upshur High School.

Barb Wygal Lutz, '78, and her Choir from Greenbrier East High School

Jeremiah Smallridge, Class of 2007, and Buckhannon-Upshur High Sch Choir

Importance Beyond Our Campus

This year the program was shared via Facebook Live so that those who are not in Buckhannon could see and hear this important tradition. As of this writing 1,670 people have been reached by the video post and there have been over 1,000 views. That number keeps rising, making this accessible in a wonderful 21st century kind of way. Comments on this feed have come from ecstatic alumni, parents of singers, and many others who were not able to be here in person. For those of you with Facebook, check out WVWC Creative Arts to access this video.

Many pastors who are alumni of the college report that they have similar Christmas programs in their churches, inspired by their experiences here.

Lauren Weaver and President Thierstein Light the Campus Christmas Tree

Following the Festival of Lessons and Carols we gather around the Campus Christmas Tree for the official lighting ceremony. This year was unseasonably warm and void of snow — but that is certainly not always the case!

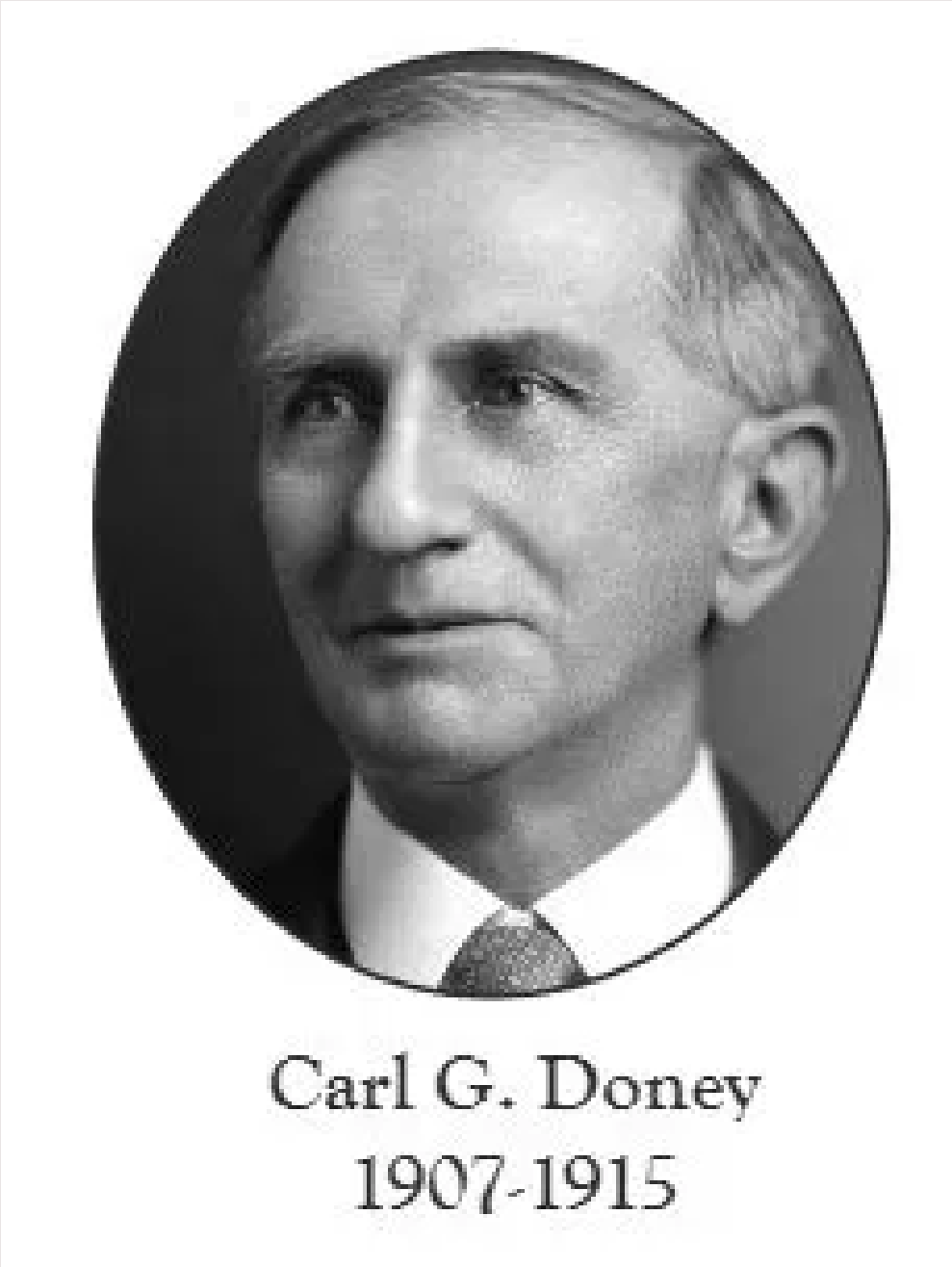
Sing We Now of Christmas

With participants from across time, and with participants elsewhere, we bring in the Christmas Season on campus.

This year marks 50 Years of Christmas Celebration in Wesley Chapel, 38 Years of Festival of Lessons and Carols format, and the 100 Year Anniversary of King's College at Cambridge celebrating in this way.

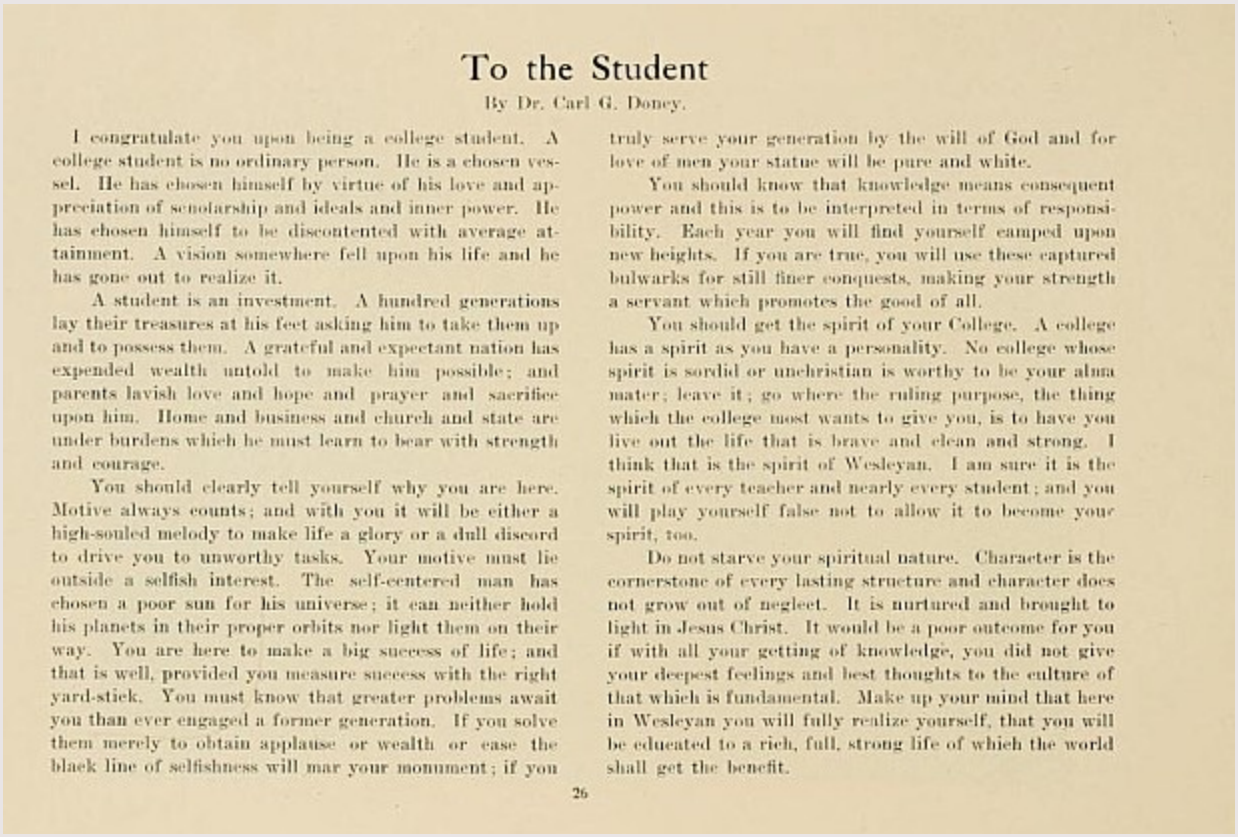
Now we can begin the Christmas Season *!*

December 10 A Letter to the Students



President Carl Gregg Doney Was Inspirational in 1910

In the 1910 Murmurmontis, President Doney wrote a letter “to the student.” He begins by congratulating them on being college students and then proceeds to explain the qualities of a student and the opportunities and responsibilites that are involved.



To the Student

By Dr. Carl G. Doney.

I congratulate you upon being a college student. A college student is no ordinary person. He is a chosen vessel. He has chosen himself by virtue of his love and appreciation of scholarship and ideals and inner power. He has chosen himself to be discontented with average attainment. A vision somewhere fell upon his life and he has gone out to realize it.

A student is an investment. A hundred generations lay their treasures at his feet asking him to take them up and to possess them. A grateful and expectant nation has expended wealth untold to make him possible; and parents lavish love and hope and prayer and sacrifice upon him. Home and business and church and state are under burdens which he must learn to bear with strength and courage.

You should clearly tell yourself why you are here. Motive always counts; and with you it will be either a high-souled melody to make life a glory or a dull discord to drive you to unworthy tasks. Your motive must lie outside a selfish interest. The self-centered man has chosen a poor sun for his universe; it can neither hold his planets in their proper orbits nor light them on their way. You are here to make a big success of life; and that is well, provided you measure success with the right yard-stick. You must know that greater problems await you than ever engaged a former generation. If you solve them merely to obtain applause or wealth or ease the black line of selfishness will mar your monument; if you truly serve your generation by the will of God and for love of men your statue will be pure and white.

You should know that knowledge means consequent power and this is to be interpreted in terms of responsibility. Each year you will find yourself camped upon new heights. If you are true, you will use these captured bulwarks for still finer conquests, making your strength a servant which promotes the good of all.

You should get the spirit of your College. A college has a spirit as you have a personality. No college whose spirit is sordid or unchristian is worthy to be your alma mater; leave it; go where the ruling purpose, the thing which the college most wants to give you, is to have you live out the life that is brave and clean and strong. I think that is the spirit of Wesleyan. I am sure it is the spirit of every teacher and nearly every student; and you will play yourself false not to allow it to become your spirit, too.

Do not starve your spiritual nature. Character is the cornerstone of every lasting structure and character does not grow out of neglect. It is nurtured and brought to light in Jesus Christ. It would be a poor outcome for you if with all your getting of knowledge, you did not give your deepest feelings and best thoughts to the culture of that which is fundamental. Make up your mind that here in Wesleyan you will fully realize yourself, that you will be educated to a rich, full, strong life of which the world shall get the benefit.

26

President Doney's Letter to the Student from the 1910 Murmurmontis

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The Inspiration Continues Today

Each fall I have my First Year Seminar students to read this letter. Over and over it has been a powerful inspiration to them as well to me. They use words like "inspired" and "motivated," and some even indicate gratitude that he wrote it and that I made them read it.

Some of the sections that they highlight every single year include:

- You should clearly tell yourself why you are here.
- Make your mind that here at Wesleyan you will fully realize yourself, that you will be educated to a rich, full, strong life of which the world shall get the benefit.
- A college student is no ordinary person.
- The self-centered man has chosen a poor sun for his universe; it can neither hold his planets in their proper orbits nor light them on their way.
- A student is an investment.
- You should know that knowledge means consequent power and this is to be interpreted in terms of responsibility.
- That the spirit of Wesleyan is the desire of all of your faculty members to have you live out the life that is brave and clean and strong. I think that is the spirit of Wesleyan.

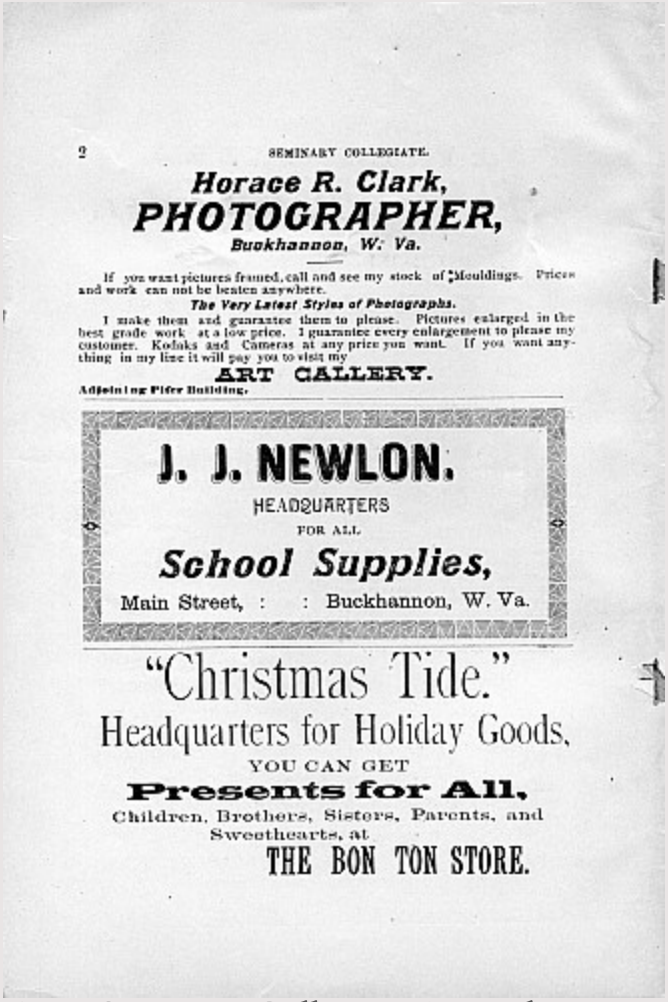
President Doney, 1910 Murmurmontis

I encourage us all to take a look at President Doney's Letter to the Student. The one that he wrote in 1910 and that still speaks to students today. It is timeless and powerful.

December 17 Christmas Gifts

Do you have your Christmas shopping finished yet? How about a few suggestions, tips and advertisements from local stores in Buckhannon through the years? And some hopes and dreams and a letter to Santa from Wesleyan Students?

A quality photograph is always a good choice. Or school supplies!


2 SEMINARY COLLEGIATE.

Horace R. Clark,
PHOTOGRAPHER,
Buckhannon, W. Va.

If you want pictures framed, call and see my stock of Mouldings. Prices and work can not be beaten anywhere.

The Very Latest Styles of Photographs.

I make them and guarantee them to please. Pictures enlarged in the best grade work at a low price. I guarantee every enlargement to please my customer. Kodaks and Cameras at any price you want. If you want anything in my line it will pay you to visit my

ART GALLERY.

Adjoining Pifer Building.

J. J. NEWLON.
HEADQUARTERS
FOR ALL
School Supplies,
Main Street, : : Buckhannon, W. Va.

"Christmas Tide."
Headquarters for Holiday Goods,
YOU CAN GET
Presents for All,
Children, Brothers, Sisters, Parents, and Sweethearts, at
THE BON TON STORE.

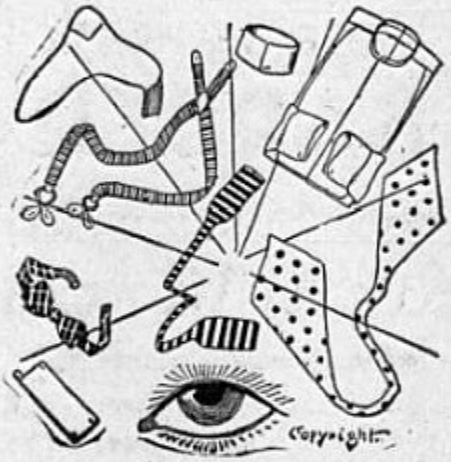
From Seminary Collegiate December 1900

Shoes, slippers, umbrellas.....or maybe a Mandolin.

What to Buy or Not to Buy

For Christmas.

That is the question that is proving hard for some people to solve. Just at this time **Let us Help You.**



From Neck to Feet.

Your needs are well looked after here.

Mother or Sister

would appreciate a nice, warm, comfortable slipper such as we can show you in several different styles. Father or Brother would enjoy the same.

Or what would be wiser than a nice neat stylish tie.

HANDKERCHIEFS,

Umbrellas, Suit Cases,

Violins, Guitars, Mandolins, Music Racks, Etc., these are the kind of gifts that bring grateful remembrances of the giver

Smith's Shoe Store.

From the Seminary Collegiate December 1901

Hats are popular, or other Gents' Furnishings.
And money saved on every purchase at Levinstein's.

A Great Holiday display

at the

Enterprise Clothing Store

Special Bargains

from now until after the Holidays. Our clothing is up-to-date, our Hats are the greatest selection, our shoes are the best wearing for the price Our Gents' Furnishing Goods come from the greatest Fabrics.

Money Saved on Every Purchase.

ENTERPRISE Clothing Store,

S. M. Levinstein, Prop.

From the Seminary Collegiate December 1901

Or, you could have headed on down to John H. Fisher across from the Court House to pick up a High School Spoon or an Ink Well. This is a Jeweler, Optician, and Engraver with much to offer the shopper.

THOMPSON & FARR,

Agents For

The Clarksburg Consolidated Laundry.

Insure your property with F. P. Sexton,

Agent for sixteen fire companies; whose total assets amount to more than

$50,000,000

GOOD Christmas Gift
Year's Subscri ption to the Delta

The Fair

Don't buy you Christmas presents before seeing the line of Novelties at the Fair.

The best kid Gloves in town for the price.

For the Girls

Sterling Toilet Sets
" Cu lers
" Glove Stretchers
" Sealing Sets
" Letter Files
" Pen Holders
" Perfume Bottles
" Belt buckles
" Chatelaine Purses
" Manicure Pieces
" High School Spoon
" Chatelaine watches

Gifts for Holiday Presents

For the Boys

Sterling Hat Brushes
" Clothes Brush s
" Military, Brush
" Match Boxes
" Paper Cutters
" Ink wells
" Pen Holders
" Mounted Suspenders
Gold Cuff Links
Stick Pins, watch Fobs, Shirt Studs, etc.

Evory piece of Goods in our stock is new.

We are glad to show the stock and you will not be asked to buy; we like lookers. All goods bought here will be engraved free of charge while you wait. Watch repairing a specialty.

JOHN H. FISHER.

Jeweler, Optician, & Engraver. Main Street Opposite Court House.

But, while doing your shopping, don't forget to think of others as well. Buckhannon has long been a place where generosity lives as you can tell from this ad in the Pharos in December 1904.

FREE, FREE, FREE.

Christmas Donation.

In which every man, woman and child is interested.

Little folks are now laying awake studying about Santa Claus and the nice, good things he is going to give them. We too have spent much time in perfecting a plan by which we may assist Santa Claus in remembering every child in Buckhannon and vicinity and help them to realize that this has been a real and true Christmas. Strange things happen and some times Santa Claus has in his pack the very things, Boys and Girls have seen in the display windows down town. Each parent wants his little tot remembered in a substantial and pleasing manner and now the opportunity is given to please the fancy of your own children and at the same time swell the Christmas fund and help others to enjoy the best day of the year.

FREE CHRISTMAS OFFERING.

On December 17th we will hold a special cash sale for the benefit of the Christmas fund of the various Sunday Schools in Buckhannon. Our entire $8,000. stock of goods will be offered for sale on the above date at regular prices and consists of a fine display of Gas, Coal and Wood Ranges, Stoves, Heaters, Pocket and Table Cutlery, Carving Setts, Skates, Sleds, Sporting Goods of all kinds, any of which make appropriate Christmas gifts. Rev. G. W. Pollock of the Presbyterian Church and Rev. F. S. Townsend of the Methodist Church have been invited to be present during the entire day, to have charge of the money drawer, and to retain ONE-FOURTH of the day's cash sales for distribution proportionately among the several Sunday School Superintendents to be used as above indicated. Come and help swell the fund that will make glad the Hearts of the youth of our little City and believe us to be

Sincerely yours,

THE UPSHUR HARDWARE CO.

December 1904 edition of the Pharos

During the Great Depression, the Pharos included an article urging students to look around them to see who might be needing some compassion and Christmas cheer. Still great advice!

Parents Say "Maybe Next Christmas" But This Year Is the Time to Act

What does Christmas mean to you? Does it mean only a short vacation from your school duties; a time of parties and dances with no thought to the real meaning of the Christmas season?

Christmas is the birthday of the Christ-child, and a short span of life was spent in making others happy, helping the needy, and teaching the word of God to the Children of the earth. Can we really celebrate his birth by doing less than he taught us?

On Christmas eve many parents will look at each other and say, "Maybe next Christmas!" while tears will fill their eyes, and their hopefulness will be weakened by many years of unfulfullment.

Think of the children who will wake on Christmas morning in a bare room and with scarcely cover enough to keep them from freezing, who will be glad if there are a few crusts of bread to eat.

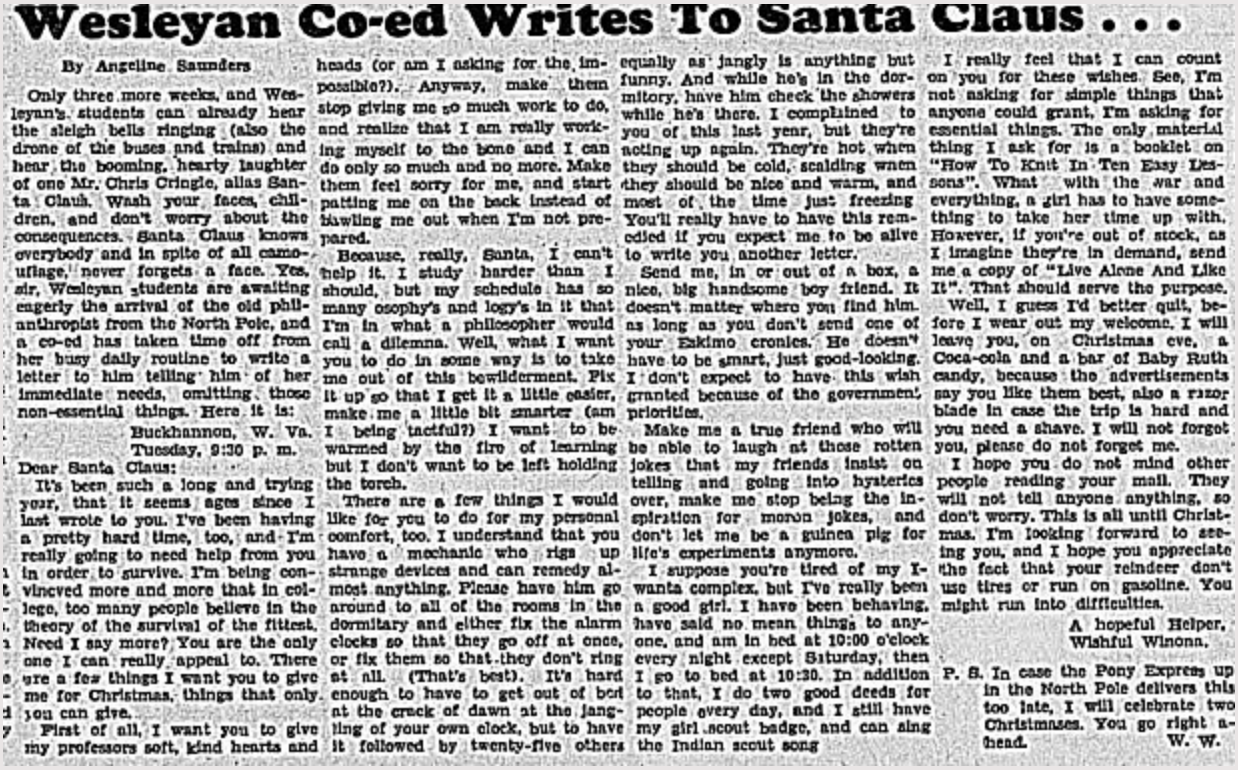
Surely, this was not Jesus' plan, and there is something that can be done, something that must be done!

Students! as you return to your homes for the Christmas vacation take time from the countless gayites to look around you. There is someone who will be eternally grateful for the happiness and cheer which a little time on your part will bring them. Make them sing with joyful hearts and tearless eyes. "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King."

December 1934 Pharos

This letter from student Angeline Saunders in 1942 shows that all along students have had many of the same thoughts and requests of Santa Claus. Hers, however, does show that World War II was impacting her life at the time. The print is small on this image, so I will transcribe the letter below.

Angeline Saunders 1942



Wesleyan Co-ed Writes To Santa Claus . . .

By Angeline Saunders

Only three more weeks, and Wesleyan's students can already hear the sleigh bells ringing (also the drone of the buses and trains) and hear the booming, hearty laughter of one Mr. Chris Cringle, alias Santa Claus. Wash your faces, children, and don't worry about the consequences. Santa Claus knows everybody and in spite of all camouflage, never forgets a face. Yes, sir, Wesleyan students are awaiting eagerly the arrival of the old philanthropist from the North Pole, and a co-ed has taken time off from her busy daily routine to write a letter to him telling him of her immediate needs, omitting those non-essential things. Here it is:

Buckhannon, W. Va.
Tuesday, 9:30 p. m.

Dear Santa Claus:

It's been such a long and trying year, that it seems ages since I last wrote to you. I've been having a pretty hard time, too, and I'm really going to need help from you in order to survive. I'm being convinced more and more that in college, too many people believe in the theory of the survival of the fittest. Need I say more? You are the only one I can really appeal to. There are a few things I want you to give me for Christmas, things that only you can give.

First of all, I want you to give my professors soft, kind hearts and heads (or am I asking for the impossible?). Anyway, make them stop giving me so much work to do, and realize that I am really working myself to the bone and I can do only so much and no more. Make them feel sorry for me, and start patting me on the back instead of bawling me out when I'm not prepared.

Because, really, Santa, I can't help it. I study harder than I should, but my schedule has so many osophy's and logy's in it that I'm in what a philosopher would call a dilemna. Well, what I want you to do in some way is to take me out of this bewilderment. Fix it up so that I get it a little easier, make me a little bit smarter (am I being tactful?) I want to be warmed by the fire of learning but I don't want to be left holding the torch.

There are a few things I would like for you to do for my personal comfort, too. I understand that you have a mechanic who rigs up strange devices and can remedy almost anything. Please have him go around to all of the rooms in the dormitary and either fix the alarm clocks so that they go off at once, or fix them so that they don't ring at all. (That's best). It's hard enough to have to get out of bed at the crack of dawn at the jangling of your own clock, but to have it followed by twenty-five others equally as jangly is anything but funny. And while he's in the dormitory, have him check the showers while he's there. I complained to you of this last year, but they're acting up again. They're hot when they should be cold, scalding when they should be nice and warm, and most of the time just freezing. You'll really have to have this remedied if you expect me to be alive to write you another letter.

Send me, in or out of a box, a nice, big handsome boy friend. It doesn't matter where you find him, as long as you don't send one of your Eskimo cronies. He doesn't have to be smart, just good-looking. I don't expect to have this wish granted because of the government priorities.

Make me a true friend who will be able to laugh at those rotten jokes that my friends insist on telling and going into hysterics over, make me stop being the inspiration for moron jokes, and don't let me be a guinea pig for life's experiments anymore.

I suppose you're tired of my I-wanta complex, but I've really been a good girl. I have been behaving, have said no mean things to anyone, and am in bed at 10:00 o'clock every night except Saturday, then I go to bed at 10:30. In addition to that, I do two good deeds for people every day, and I still have my girl scout badge, and can sing the Indian scout song.

I really feel that I can count on you for these wishes. See, I'm not asking for simple things that anyone could grant, I'm asking for essential things. The only material thing I ask for is a booklet on "How To Knit In Ten Easy Lessons". What with the war and everything, a girl has to have something to take her time up with. However, if you're out of stock, as I imagine they're in demand, send me a copy of "Live Alone And Like It". That should serve the purpose.

Well, I guess I'd better quit, before I wear out my welcome. I will leave you, on Christmas eve, a Coca-cola and a bar of Baby Ruth candy, because the advertisements say you like them best, also a razor blade in case the trip is hard and you need a shave. I will not forget you, please do not forget me.

I hope you do not mind other people reading your mail. They will not tell anyone anything, so don't worry. This is all until Christmas. I'm looking forward to seeing you, and I hope you appreciate the fact that your reindeer don't use tires or run on gasoline. You might run into difficulties.

A hopeful Helper,
Wishful Winona.

P. S. In case the Pony Express up in the North Pole delivers this too late, I will celebrate two Christmases. You go right ahead. W. W.

Pharos in December 1942

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A hopeful Helper, Wishful Winona.

P.S. In case the Pony Express up in the North Pole delivers this too late, I will celebrate two Christmases. You go right ahead. WW.

December 24 Christmas Eve

Campus is quiet today.

The students have finished their games, concerts, plays, readings, exams, presentations, and all manner of group activities for the fall.

The faculty and staff have finished lecturing, mentoring, encouraging, and at times nagging the students for the fall. They have graded the papers and exams, have turned in their grades, and are spending time with their families.

There is more to be taught and learned, more to be written and read, more games to be played, more music to be made.

But for today Campus is quiet.

Merry Christmas to all of the Dreamers and the Giants
of West Virginia Wesleyan College
Past Present Future.

December 31 For Auld Lang Syne

It is New Year's Eve. This is the evening of the year when we are most likely to look both back and forward.

We are all very likely to hear — and to sing — **Auld Lang Syne** this evening at least once. What does that even mean? Roughly translated, those three words mean **Times Gone By.** The song is about remembering friends and experiences from the past and not letting them be forgotten.

The first verse of the song asks,

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

And never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

And auld lang syne.

ac·quaint·ance

/əˈkwāntəns/

noun
noun: **acquaintance**; plural noun: **acquaintances**

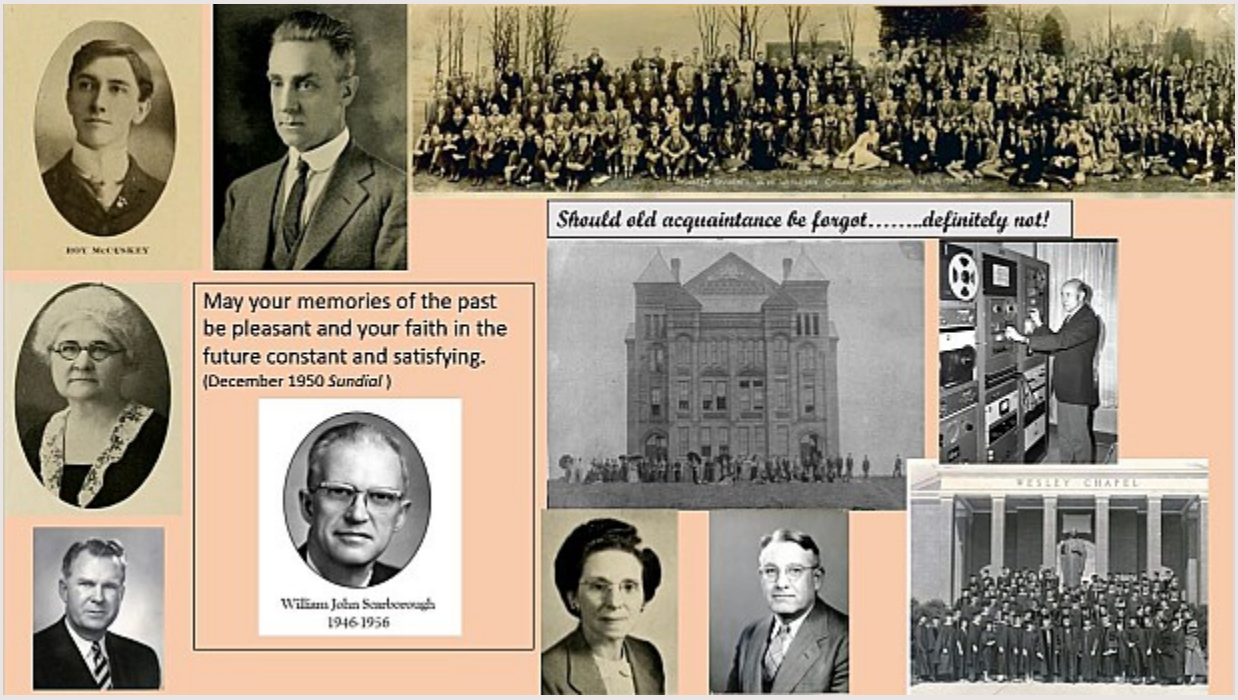
1. a person's knowledge or experience of something.
   "the students had little **acquaintance with** the language"
   synonyms: familiarity with, knowledge of, experience with/of, awareness of, understanding of, comprehension of, grasp of
   "the students had little **acquaintance with** the language"

Dreamers And Giants

On New Year's Day last year DreamersAndGiants was launched to help us look back at those who have Dreamed West Virginia Wesleyan into being and those whose Dreams have kept us moving forward. Some have truly attained the status of Giants in this endeavor. It has been a great first year.

One of my students had this to say:

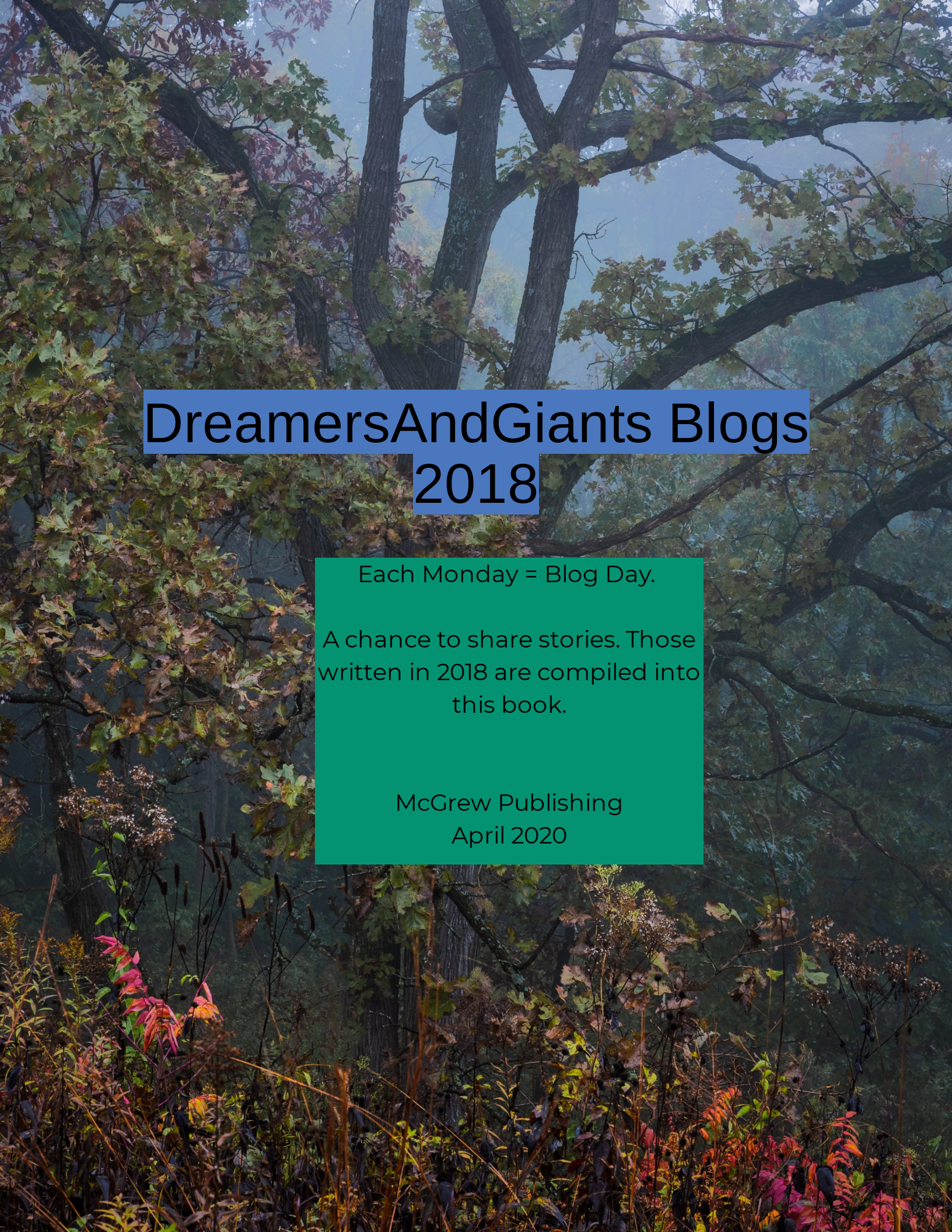
> *Knowing that Wesleyan has a long good history makes it feel comfortable in the fact that it will continue down the road. Hearing that we made it through all the wars and the Great Depression and survived doing well makes me feel confident about the future of the college.*


Should old acquaintance be forgot.....definitely not!
May your memories of the past be pleasant and your faith in the future constant and satisfying.
(December 1950 Sundial)
William John Scarborough
1946-1956

As we prepare to ring in 2019 this evening at midnight, I look forward to making more lists, collecting more stories, sharing more pictures, and writing more blog posts to share to help us all become more acquainted with WVWC.

I join former president Scarborough in his New Year's wish from 69 years ago:

> May your memories of the past be pleasant
> and your faith in the future constant and satisfying.
> (December 1950 *Sundial*)



DreamersAndGiants Blogs 2018

Each Monday = Blog Day.

A chance to share stories. Those written in 2018 are compiled into this book.

McGrew Publishing
April 2020